

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather

Today: Partly sunny, windy, 39°F (4°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, flurries, 30°F (-1°C)
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 45°F (7°C)
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Volume 121, Number 1

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

MIT to Help with Cambridge Schools

By Frank Dabek
STAFF REPORTER

MIT will be asked to take a larger role in the Cambridge public school system under a "charter of responsibility" to be developed between the Institute and the city.

Announcing the agreement at the first ever State of the City address, Cambridge Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio said, "It is difficult to defend [the performance of] our schools in light of the fact that we are in the education capital of the world." Cambridge schools performed poorly on state-wide standardized tests, placing 203rd out of 208 districts.

Under the agreement, MIT and fellow Cambridge educational institutions Harvard University and Lesley University will "accept direct responsibility" for segments of the Cambridge public school system, Galluccio said. He suggested that MIT might be responsible for technical education and Lesley, traditionally known for its education school, for working with teachers.

Although Galluccio repeatedly referred to MIT's role in terms of "taking responsibility" and "accepting accountability," MIT officials downplayed how directly the Institute would be involved in the school

State of the City, Page 17

'Don't Worry' Captures 6.270 in Nail-Biter

Annual Competition Lasts Four Hours

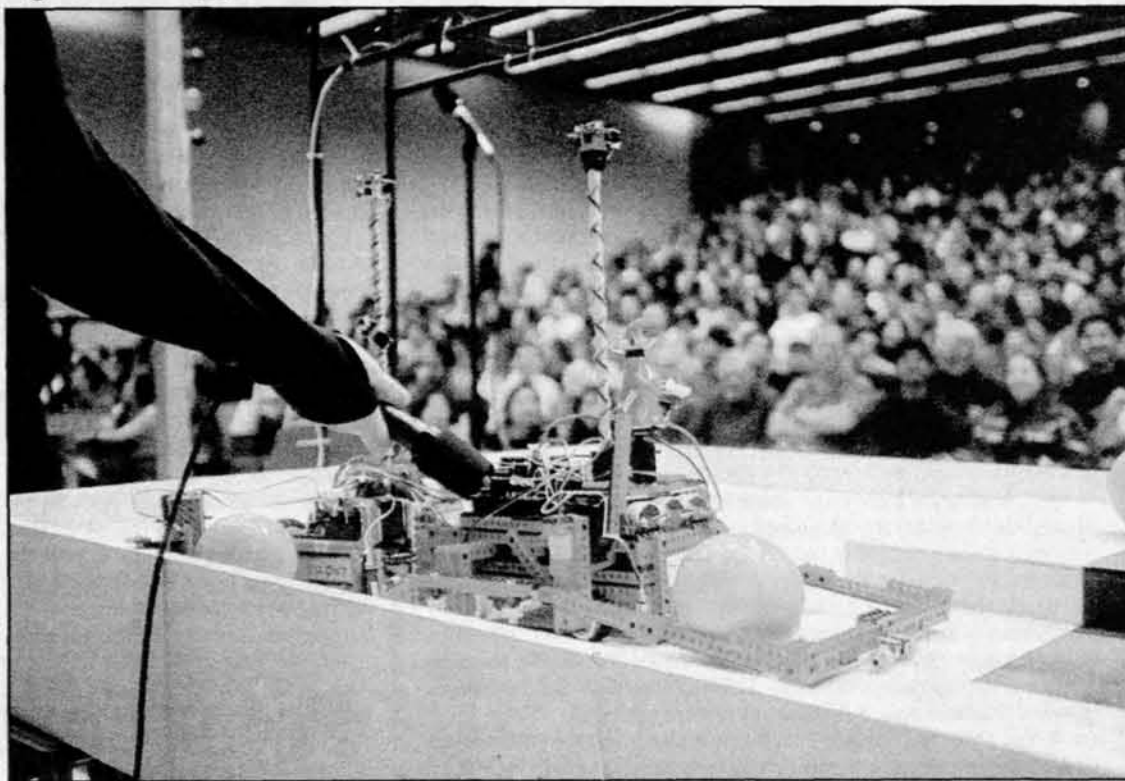
By Brian Loux
STAFF REPORTER

In one of the most grueling finals ever, spanning four hours of competition, Don't Worry, created by Brian Lin '01 and Fred S. Lee '01, narrowly defeated Maximus, designed by Sameer R. Dhond '01, David S. Bailey '02, and Eric A. Dauler '02, to claim the 6.270 Autonomous Robot Design Competition crown.

The last two robots, Don't Worry and Maximus, were amazingly similar, boasting the same programming tactics, the same mechanical design, and even the same color.

This year's game, "Masters of the Universe," pitted two robots against each other and was played in a rectangular arena divided into two sides, with a raised platform in the middle. Each round started with two rubber balls on each side of the

6.270, Page 22



PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH

Dorko beeps out the Kingsmen classic "Louie, Louie" as an eager 6.270 audience looks on. Unfortunately for Dorko, the robot Don't Worry went on to victory and autonomous robot glory.

Physics Reading Room May House TEAL Program

By Naveen Sunkavally
NEWS EDITOR

Administrators and members of the Physics Department met yesterday afternoon to discuss the feasibility of the Physics Reading Room as an alternate location for TEAL, the controversial freshman physics program originally proposed to be housed in the fifth floor reading room of the Student Center.

"I think it was a good meeting, but there are still issues that need to

be worked out," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine.

Marc A. Kastner, head of the Physics Department, said that the department was very open to the idea of housing Technology Enabled Active Learning (TEAL) in the Physics Reading Room under the condition that another location is found to house the Physics Reading Room.

"We would agree that [the

Physics Reading Room] is a really good space for TEAL, [but] that space is really critical for the department in a number of ways. It's important for graduate students and faculty; it's the only meeting place for we have for the department," Kastner said.

Undergraduate Association President Peter A. Shulman '01, who along with other members of the UA raised the Physics Reading Room as a possibility, described the

new location as more ideal than the fifth floor Student Center reading room. The Physics Reading Room is closer to physics faculty and where students go to class, offers a better physical layout, and doesn't have elevator problems, Shulman said.

"[The Physics Department] has quality of life issues for graduate students. We have quality of life issues for undergraduates. ... There

TEAL, Page 26

Naughty by Nature May Perform in Second Concert

By Matthew Palmer
NEWS EDITOR

The Class of 2002 has been in negotiations with musical band Naughty by Nature to possibly headline a spring concert in March. The concert would be in addition to MIT's annual Spring Weekend.

"We wanted to have a large community event intended for a lot of MIT students," President of the Class of 2002 Sudeb C. Dalai said. "It also encompasses a community service and community awareness component," he said. Proceeds from the concert will benefit MIT's chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

The concert is set to be held March 3 in Rockwell Cage. Doors will open around 6:30 p.m. that evening and ticket sales will start within the next two weeks.

This concert will mark the second

time this year that the junior class has held a large event to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Earlier this year, the profits from the Battle of the Bands were donated to the same cause.

Many groups help to fund concert

Funding for the concert, which Class of 2002 Vice President Sonia Garg estimates to cost a total of \$35,000, came from a variety of sources, including Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, Weekends@MIT, the Dormitory Council, Next House, and the 2002 Council.

"This sets a precedent to empower students," Dalai said of his class's ability to earn enough funds to put on such a large event.

"I think it'll be a bang-up concert," Benedict said. "Part of the

Concert, Page 25



MATTHEW T. YOURST

The Flying Karamazov Brothers wondered if they could juggle on other planets, so the Media Lab helped out. The Karamazovs bring their show "L'Univers" to the Wilbur Theater tomorrow through Saturday.



The Tech's 2000 Year in Review is included as a supplement to this issue.



Comics

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ARTS

The Musical Theatre Guild presents the excesses and illusions a group of 1930s Berliners in Cabaret.

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WORLD & NATION

New AIDS Drugs May Be Near

THE WASHINGTON POST

CHICAGO

AIDS researchers might be on the verge of producing the most promising new crop of treatments in years.

Studies presented here Monday demonstrated progress in the development of drugs that might help solve many of the knotty problems in AIDS therapeutics — bad side effects, drug resistance, and the scarcity of options for people who have run through the nearly two dozen antiviral drugs now on the market.

The new drug candidates, some tested on small numbers of people and others only in laboratory experiments, couldn't come at a more opportune time. About 40 percent of people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) ultimately fail on the various drug combinations available today.

The prospect that many new drugs may come to clinical use in a few years was greeted with both enthusiasm and caution by AIDS researchers at the 8th annual Retrovirus Conference, the annual mid-winter AIDS conference in the United States.

"It's really exciting," Douglas D. Richman, a researcher at the University of California in San Diego and one of the conference organizers, said of the flock of new compounds. "But one should never underestimate the virus's potential for malice and mischief."

The road to today's HIV therapeutics, however, is littered with the bones of once-promising drugs. The experts here expect the new wave of pharmaceuticals — when and if they arrive — will broaden treatment, not revolutionize it.

Polarization on Abortion Spurs Activism on Both Sides

LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOUSTON

As the abortion issue takes center stage in the new Bush administration, family planning clinics across the nation are spotting a curious dual trend — more assertive anti-abortion protesters and more willing abortion-rights volunteers.

In official Washington, the climate on abortion unquestionably has chilled. Since taking office, President Bush has voiced opposition to research on aborted fetuses, banned funding for family planning groups overseas that promote or perform abortions and nominated abortion foe John Ashcroft as his new attorney general.

Away from the capital, however, family-planning workers are reporting contradictory trends. Workers in smaller, Bible Belt communities such as Bryan, Texas, say they've seen an increase in peaceful protesters — and in some cases, emboldened vandals. But at larger, urban facilities — such as Planned Parenthood centers in Houston and Nashville, Tenn. — officials say contributions and volunteerism have jumped noticeably since the first of the year.

Chris Charbonneau, president of Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, is seeing both phenomena at once. Abortion opponents, she said, clearly have been more active since Bush's inauguration. On the recent anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* decision, which legalized abortion 28 years ago, a protest was held in the state capital of Olympia — with some legislators calling for abortion restrictions.

Then, on Thursday, for the first time, Charbonneau said: "We had an anti-choice group advertising in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* that they are planning a rally at one of our clinics."

But Charbonneau said her chapter also has experienced an upswing in positive e-mail, volunteerism and donations. "People are outraged about the international planning order and the Ashcroft nomination," Charbonneau said. "Anyone who believed that Bush would be a moderate president now knows they have been deceived."

In Tulsa, Okla., vandals in December slashed the tires of cars belonging to two Planned Parenthood nurse practitioners. The facilities there also have been the target of threatening phone calls and minor forms of vandalism. It's the first damage since the clinic was burned to the ground four years ago, Chief Executive Nancy Kachel said.

Bush Ready for Hard Fight With Congress over Tax Cuts

By James Gerstenzang and Janet Hook

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush on Monday moved to speed up the impact of the tax cut he will propose this week, saying that it should apply to the full 2001 tax year.

Prospects for a big tax cut have improved dramatically in recent weeks, but Bush also said that he is prepared for a tough fight over the details. He warned Congress not to tinker with his design.

"This is the right size plan. It is the right approach. And I'm going to defend it mightily," he said.

The plan, which would cost \$1.6 trillion over 10 years, would cut the average tax bill for a family of four by \$1,600, primarily by lowering tax brackets and increasing the child credit from \$500 to \$1,000.

Bush said he hopes Congress will approve the plan by July 4.

It would not apply to the 2000 tax year, for which taxpayer returns are due April 15. If Congress acts by mid-year, however, the new rates could bring about lowered income tax withholding, boosting take-home pay during the second half of the year.

Before Bush took office, the tax

measure appeared to be one of the tougher sells on his legislative agenda. But glowing predictions about an increasing budget surplus and spreading fears about near-term economic problems have left legislators debating not whether to cut taxes but by how much.

Democratic leaders have endorsed cuts that would total as much as \$900 billion over 10 years. They are seeking to focus the coming debate on who would get a tax cut, arguing that the Bush tax plan is too heavily skewed toward the wealthy. They have estimated that more than 40 percent of the benefits of the plan would go to the top 1 percent of all taxpayers. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) put it this way:

"If you make \$1 million a year, under the Bush plan your tax cut would be big enough to buy a new Lexus. If you're from an average working family, you can get a new muffler for your used car."

Democrats also contended that Bush has underestimated the impact of his proposal on the surplus. They said that its actual cost would be more than \$2 trillion, when increased interest payments on the federal debt and other likely

changes are considered.

Still, Democrats have ceded considerable ground. For one, they said that they will accept a far bigger overall tax cut than they were willing to approve in the past. For another, some Democrats have warmed to cutting income tax rates. For years they have insisted that tax cuts should meet specific social needs — to encourage education savings or to help pay for health care, for example.

But if Bush wants Congress to refrain from tinkering with his proposal, he has as much to worry about from Republicans as from Democrats.

Under Bush's proposal, the five current income tax brackets — 15 percent, 28 percent, 31 percent, 36 percent and nearly 40 percent — would be scaled back to four — 10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent and 33 percent. To illustrate the impact, Bush brought into the White House three families whose circumstances would be improved if his proposal were enacted. He displayed in the Diplomatic Reception Room a mock-up of a check, made out to "U.S. Taxpayer" for \$1,600, the average benefit that he says families would receive.

Polls Favor Sharon as Israelis Prepare to Elect New Leader

By Tracy Wilkinson and Mary Curtius

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM

Frightened and dispirited, Israelis prepared to vote Tuesday for a new prime minister, and polls unanimously forecast right-wing hawk Ariel Sharon, a legendary and feared former military commander, as the winner.

Incumbent Prime Minister Ehud Barak made a last-minute appeal for support on the eve of the vote, casting his competition with Sharon as a choice between war and peace. But a senior Barak aide conceded Monday night that "it's over."

Sharon, confident of victory, spent Monday attempting to plan a Cabinet.

Indeed, with little doubt in the minds of most Israelis about who will win Tuesday's vote, the questions here focused on whether the new prime minister will be able to avert an escalation of Israel's deadly conflict with Palestinians and whether he can form a stable government.

Sharon, architect of Israel's disastrous invasion of Lebanon and implicated in several massacres of Arabs, is expected to take a hard line on land-for-peace deals with the Palestinians. Palestinian officials condemned his presumed victory as a "recipe for war."

Yasser Abed-Rabbo, a senior Palestinian official, described Sharon as a "barrel of hatred" who, as foreign minister in 1998, made a point

of refusing to shake the hand of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat during peace talks for which the United States served as host.

Traumatized by the last four months of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed, a sizable percentage of the Israeli electorate believes that something worse is inevitable. But these voters say they will feel safer under Sharon in such circumstances. Barak, who swept to a landslide victory just 20 months ago, is blamed for yielding too much to the Palestinians and getting nothing but violence in return.

The most immediate challenge facing Sharon will be to form a so-called national unity government, considered key to his own political survival.

WEATHER

After the Storm

By Robert Korty

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

If you followed the forecasts concerning last night's snow you may have been baffled by waffling predictions. You are not alone. The main difficulty in forecasting the weather in coastal regions is resolving fine-scale processes from coarse-grid models. The weather may vary markedly over distances as short as 20 kilometers owing to strong contrasts in air masses over land and at sea. Yet our weather models typically solve the prognostic equations on grids that are spaced at least 100 kilometers apart. A major reason for such coarseness is the dearth of upper air measurements; we send balloons up to gather data only once every 12 hours and often several hundred kilometers apart.

Intense storms wrap warm air from the Atlantic Ocean up their eastern sides; whether the wind in Boston is from the northeast (off the Atlantic) or north-northeast (blowing down the coast) makes a huge difference in whether warmer maritime air may raise the temperature above freezing with a changeover to rain or colder air remains in place with all snow. Quite often it may be a near-certainty that there will be snow in Worcester, rain on Cape Cod, with a boundary somewhere in between (over Boston and Providence). Predicting exactly where the rain-snow line will land often proves difficult, leading to uncertain forecasts.

But today's forecast is a bit easier (I hope) ...

In the wake of the storm, winds will be strong today from the northwest. Under clear skies, the temperature should rise to near 40°F (4°C).

Extended Forecast

Today: Becoming partly sunny and windy. High of 39°F (4°C).

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with scattered flurries. Low near 30°F (-1°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. High near 45°F (7°C).

Thursday: Partly cloudy. High near 43°F (6°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 6, 2001



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	--- Warm Front	Light	Thunderstorm
S Hurricane	--- Cold Front	Moderate	Haze
	--- Stationary Front	Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Justice O'Connor Sends Out Mixed Signals About Retiring

By Charles Lane

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Here's a factoid to throw into the Supreme Court retirement speculation mix: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 70 — the swing vote on the court whose future is the subject of such intense discussion — has hired law clerks for the terms beginning next October and in October 2002. And she's interviewing candidates for 2003.

"Those actions to me strongly indicate that she does not have any immediate plans to retire," said Georgetown University law professor Viet Dinh, a former O'Connor clerk.

But others suggest O'Connor,

appointed in 1981 by President Reagan as the court's first woman, could very well be planning to step down when the court wraps up its current term in June — but continues hiring so as not to tip her hand.

"Justice O'Connor has been planning on retiring, and made no bones about it," a conservative legal academic with good connections on the court said. "There's nothing else for her to prove or do."

Though O'Connor has recovered from breast cancer, and still does aerobics with female law clerks each morning, her husband, lawyer John J. O'Connor III, 71, has had health problems. Both are said to miss their friends and family back home in Arizona.

O'Connor reportedly stoked the guessing game by expressing exasperation upon hearing initial election-night reports that then-Vice President Al Gore had apparently carried Florida, and thus captured the presidency. According to *Newsweek*, her husband told friends at the time that O'Connor was upset because she had been hoping for a Republican president so he could appoint her successor.

The politics of an O'Connor retirement would be tricky indeed, given the 50-50 party split in the Senate, which would vote on President Bush's choice to replace her, and which has just gone through a partisan battle over the confirmation of John Ashcroft as attorney general.

Ex-Worker Kills Four, Himself Day Before Start of His Incarceration

By William Claiborne

THE WASHINGTON POST

MELROSE PARK, ILL.

A factory worker who was fired six years ago for theft returned to the plant here Monday and opened fire with an assault rifle, slaying four employees and wounding four others before killing himself, authorities said.

The triggerman in the carnage, William D. Baker, 66, a former toolroom attendant and forklift operator at Navistar International Corp., had been scheduled to turn himself over to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons today, federal authorities said. He was scheduled to begin serving a five-month sentence on his guilty plea to federal charges of

conspiring to steal \$195,000 worth of engines and parts and transport them across state lines for sale.

Investigators said Baker was indicted last year by a federal grand jury partly on the basis of testimony by Navistar employees who acted as undercover agents and helped unravel the conspiracy. Police declined to say whether any of Monday's victims had testified against Baker or his co-defendants.

The shooting rampage in this suburban industrial park 15 miles west of Chicago was the latest in a wave of workplace massacres. The most recent was a month and a half ago when a disgruntled employee shot to death seven people at a Wakefield, Mass., Internet consult-

ing company.

Melrose Park Police Chief Vito R. Scavo said Baker, who had been a Navistar employee for 39 years, appeared at an entrance gate carrying a golf bag at about 9:45 a.m. When refused entry by a security guard, Scavo said, Baker pulled a .38-caliber revolver and held it to her side as he walked with her into the 70-acre facility.

Employees said they are required to present bar-coded badges to gain entry to the diesel engine manufacturing plant and that former employees are not likely to have electronically validated badges. Police said the security guard, who was not identified, recognized Baker when he appeared at the gate.

House Members Promise State Election Officials Funding, Help

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Key members of Congress assured state election officials Monday there would be money and help coming from Washington this year to improve voting systems in the wake of the Florida presidential recount.

The chairman of the House Administration Committee and its senior Democrat told a meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State they hope to steer bipartisan legislation to early passage.

"This is going to cost money," said Rep. Robert Ney (R-Ohio), the newly installed committee chairman. "There's got to be funding" to modernize voting equipment and train election workers, he said.

Ney offered no specific sum, but Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland), the committee's ranking minority member, said he will introduce a measure this week to distribute as much as \$387 million next year for a national "buyout" of punch-card voting machines of the kind that resulted in thousands of spoiled ballots and caused so much controversy in the Florida recount. A Congressional Research Service report said about one-third of the voters nationally use punch-card machines.

The bill Hoyer said he plans to introduce with Rep. David Price (D-North Carolina) and unnamed Republicans would also set up a bipartisan election commission that could hand out \$80 million a year for training election workers and upgrading registration and voting systems.

Bush Nominates Wolfowitz To Pentagon Position

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Three years ago, as then-President Clinton prepared to dispatch U.S. aircraft against Iraq in what became the "Desert Fox" campaign, Paul Wolfowitz thought such a limited strike was unwise.

"Absent a strategy, absent any follow-up, (airstrikes) strengthen Saddam Hussein in the region and his own country," said Wolfowitz, who served as a top Pentagon official during the Persian Gulf War before becoming dean of the Johns Hopkins Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

Wolfowitz was among those who favored creating a haven in southern Iraq where opposition groups and renegade Iraqi soldiers could flee and regroup, possibly under the protection of the U.S. military.

Now he will have a chance to mold such policies from the Pentagon. President Bush said Monday that he would nominate Wolfowitz to the No. 2 post at the Pentagon, where he will serve as deputy to new Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The position requires Senate confirmation.

A resident of Chevy Chase, Md., Wolfowitz, 57, was one of candidate Bush's top foreign policy and defense advisers and, for a time, a front-runner for the top defense job. But some Bush advisers believed Wolfowitz lacked the managerial skills to run the sprawling Pentagon, which has overwhelmed many seasoned bureaucrats with its battling fiefdoms and complex weapons programs.

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OPINION

Mental Health Solutions

Once again, troubles at MIT have made the front page of The Boston Globe. This time, however, the criticisms are founded. The Globe's two-part series on suicides at MIT identifies key

Editorial

deficiencies in the Institute's mental health services. Globe staff writer Patrick Healy drew reasonable conclusions about the severity of the Institute's problem by showing that MIT's suicide rates for all students, as well as those for undergraduates, were significantly higher than those of peer institutions. Due to the small size of Healy's data set and the inability to obtain data from peer institutions such as Stanford, Yale, and Princeton, The Globe's findings are cloudy. Nevertheless, Healy still presents a compelling case which singles out mental health as one of the Institute's most serious problems.

Of course, this is not news to MIT students. They already knew that the Institute's mental health programs fail to address the needs of its students. Over ten percent of students have sought mental help from MIT Medical, and stories abound on campus of the roadblocks these students face when seeking treatment. Appointments to see a particular therapist may need to be made a week or more in advance, which could be too late for a student dealing with depression. The lackadaisical attitude many MIT students express towards mental health problems is also of great concern.

Even more troubling is President Charles M. Vest's willful ignorance of MIT's mental health problems. Vest's administration has spent years trying to solve the alcohol problem, yet has done little to address the greater problem of student depression. In the Globe article, Vest attempted to de-emphasize the severity of MIT's mental health problem by saying that "university years will always be very intense experiences, whether it is at MIT or elsewhere." His comment ignores the fact that the MIT experience is more intense than at its peer institutions. The Tech does not wish to see academic expectations lowered. However, we do call upon the administration to recognize the additional stress on its students and provide ample mental health services.

To reach that level of service, the Institute must take steps towards improving its mental health services. The first step is for students to support the Student/Staff Task Force on Mental Health, a collaboration between the administration and members of the Undergraduate Association Committee on Student Life, led by CSL Co-Chair David A. Mellis '02. The task force's advice will help shape the administration's policies on mental health, which is why it is essential that the administration listen to Mellis and other students when they describe the roadblocks they face in seeking medical assistance.

In addition, the Institute should begin today by changing some of its policies on treatment for mental health. One good start would be to offer full medical coverage of outsourced therapy for long-term patients. In addition, if a patient visits MIT Medical more than once for counseling, extensive communication between different mental health providers must be ensured in order to better serve the patient.

Mental health providers must also communicate with MIT staff advisers, such as graduate resident tutors, housemasters, and academic advisers. These advisers must be trained to recognize the signs of depression and other mental illnesses, and must be knowledgeable enough about MIT's counseling services to recommend the right course of action for a troubled student.

As advisers become more comfortable discussing mental health issues, the stigma associated with seeking help will dissolve and awareness of options will increase. Students will feel less apprehensive about approaching the reception desk on the Medical Center's third floor and asking to make an appointment.

Round Table

What experiences have you had with mental health services at MIT?

Submit a description of your experiences to
<letters@the-tech.mit.edu>.

Your submissions may be used
in an upcoming special opinion section on mental health at MIT.

Letters To The Editor

Discrimination is a Two-Edged Sword

As an alumnus who has been disturbed by MIT's discriminatory race-based and sex-based policies over the years, I was pleased to see your headline ["Colleges Agree to End Inequalities for Women," Jan. 31]. I hope this means that MIT is planning to end affirmative action and to go back to treating white men equally.

Edward Friedman '57

Capitalism: The Forgotten Ideal

In the Jan. 31 *Tech* both Jason Wasfy and Veena Thomas identify major problems facing the United States. However, their proposed solutions are of the same mindset that caused these problems in the first place, and would thus make things worse.

Wasfy has observed firsthand how far from reality the politicians in Washington truly are. By quoting the Senate staffer, he beautifully illustrates the level of deception and evasion they have sunk to. Indeed, it is disgusting that lobbyists are down there fighting out this "battle of the bucks."

Similarly, Thomas has noted that finding good teachers is quite difficult given the sorry state of American education.

These are fundamental political problems. And, as such, they have fundamental causes.

In the case of campaign finance and lobbying, the government has the power of life and death over industry, through non-objec-

tive laws and regulations. Take, for instance, the "antitrust" laws which punish successful companies like Microsoft for being successful, or the price controls and environmental regulations that have caused the California power shortage. As a result, such companies must fight a "battle of the bucks" to make sure that self-important bureaucrats don't legislate them out of existence.

The clear solution is to eliminate all such laws and regulations, so that the government cannot interfere with production and trade. This would render the lobbying industry obsolete. However, what Wasfy suggests is in fact increased government power. By "limiting big money in politics," he actually means limiting private money in politics. Under such a revised system, the private citizen no longer has the ability to support the candidate of his choice. Instead, government officials would use our tax dollars to decide who is worthy of what funds, and what advertising individuals and corporations have the "privilege" of sponsoring.

As Wasfy points out, this might give MIT a strategic advantage which would reduce our tuition. Stop and think for a minute about this. As students at MIT, he argues, we should be glad to see private individuals and corporations muzzled so that the Institute can muscle in on a greater share of federal money (i.e. tax dollars). In addition to being blatantly immoral, this kind of pragmatism is shortsighted as well. After all, we're not going to be at MIT forever.

Now, what is the problem in education? Through tax-funded public schools, local governments have established monopolies in education. People pay for public education regardless of whether they use it. Since public

schools don't answer to the laws of supply and demand, there are no consequences for mismanagement and ineptitude. Thus they stagnate; such is the result of any socialist program. As a consequence of this system, districts have neither the funds nor the incentive to pay good teachers what they're worth.

Again, the solution is to get the government out of education (and this includes subsidizing universities like MIT) and allow education to be a truly private enterprise. Hasn't history taught us that only way to achieve prosperity and progress is through economic freedom?

However, Thomas suggests the opposite — increased government involvement through ROTC-like teacher training programs. I ask this: how many of these contracted teachers would remain in the profession after a few years of working in today's public schools?

After reading articles like these, I wonder how many people truly understand the basic principles of politics and economics. Where are the defenders of the social system this country was founded on? Where are those who recognize laissez-faire capitalism as the moral and practical ideal?

Michael E. Rolish '04

The Tech Online, Sort Of

Your masthead "the oldest newspaper online, est. 1993" is appropriate for how fast and frequently an issue is placed online.

The current online issue is Jan 10.

Rick Ottolini '76

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No let-

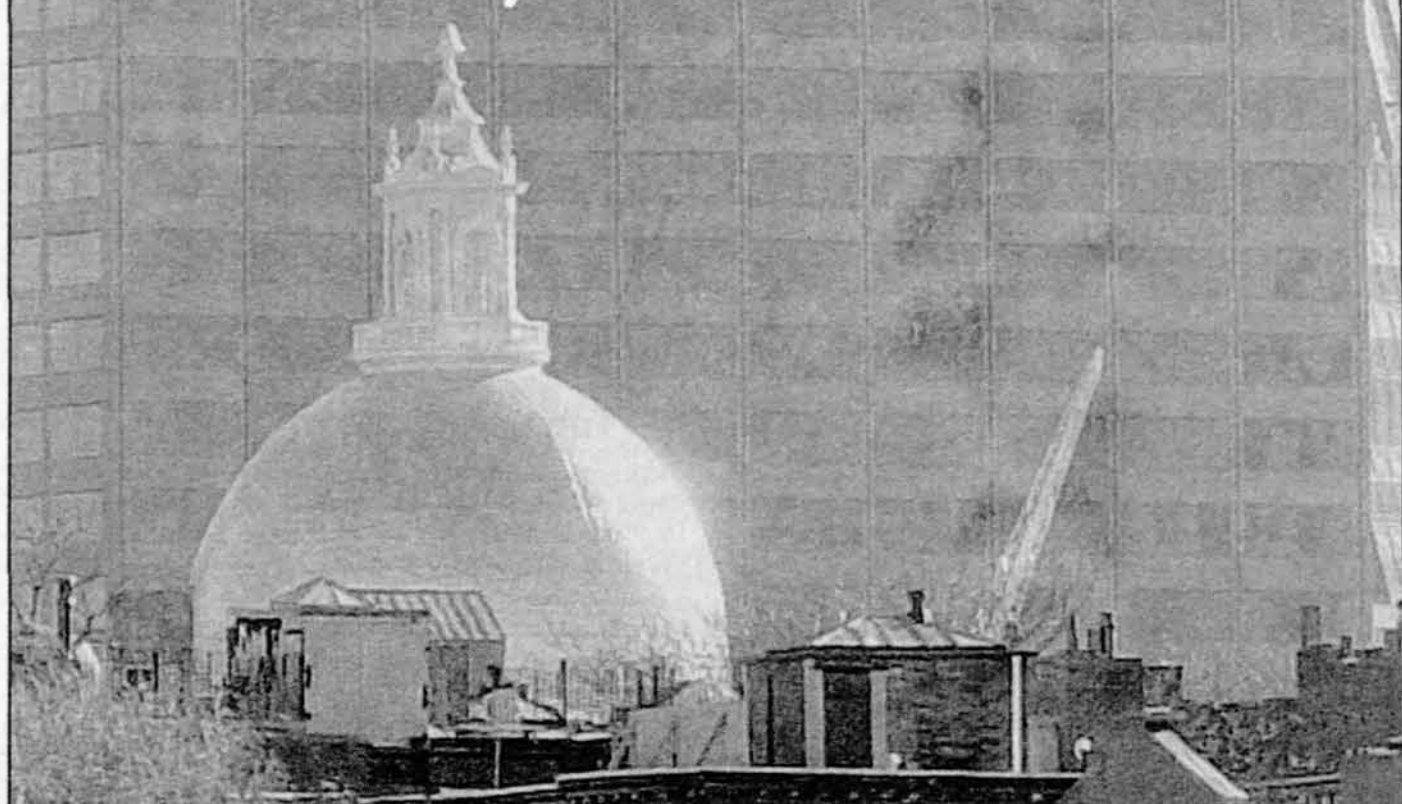
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To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Democracy Under Construction



SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Mike Hall

While construction continues on the exterior of Massachusetts's crumbling State House, legislators and lobbyists continue to destroy the building from the inside. Every new story brings word of another day of destruction, led by House Speaker Thomas M. Finneran, Boston's leading demolitions expert. Finneran is not destroying the pillars that physically support the building, though. Instead, he's toppling the few remaining pillars of democracy which support what little legitimacy is left in Massachusetts state government.

Finneran's path to power began out of similar destruction in April 1996, shortly after former speaker Charles F. Flaherty, in standard Massachusetts style, left office after pleading guilty to a tax felony. After Flaherty's corruption, Bay Staters were looking for a breath of fresh air. Finneran offered an escape from the political cronyism that beset Flaherty and his predecessors. Unlike Flaherty, he was elected by a bipartisan coalition, which he maintained during his first four years in office.

As his term entered its halfway point, however, Finneran began to show the anti-democratic tendencies which plagued prior speakers. He began in January by proposing changes to the rules governing the way the House did its business. Among those changes was a rule requiring a lawmaker to propose cuts in the state budget equivalent to any of his or her proposed spending increases. For example, a proposed \$1 million increase in public works spending would have to be counterbalanced by a \$1 million cut in welfare spending. While appearing fiscally sound, the proposal actually would consolidate

control over budget matters in the Ways and Means Committee, the committee that Finneran chaired before becoming speaker.

Finneran's quest for control would only get worse the following day. A proposal to abolish the eight-year term limit on House speakers began to "float" on the House floor. If the amendment passed, Finneran could easily retain control of the speakership for the foreseeable future, a move which would counteract the clean government desired by Massachusetts residents.

Publicly, Finneran opposed the proposal, for fear of the public interpreting it as a power grab. But after the proposal passed over Finneran's "objections," the speaker's true feelings became apparent. Within days, legislators who voted for the proposal were rewarded with choice committee appointments and accompanying pay raises, while those who voted against it were removed from the best committees.

Among those receiving the best assignments was social conservative John Rogers, a Norwood Democrat who spoke passionately against term limits during floor debate on the proposal. Rogers was rewarded for his blind obedience to the speaker with the coveted chairmanship of the Ways and Means Committee, the same committee which Finneran had placed under his thumb just days before.

Meanwhile, Finneran evicted opponents like Marblehead Democrat Douglas W. Petersen, the now-former chairman of the Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee. Petersen had been a longtime supporter of Finneran, but balked when the speaker asked him to sign on to the leadership's proposal to water down the Clean Elections Law, which sets up a mechanism for public financing of campaigns.

"If the speaker is going to make me vote

against my integrity and principles, he can take this chairmanship and shove it," Petersen said to *The Boston Globe*.

While Petersen's sentiments are understandable, they do little to counteract Finneran's attempt to seize the House. Those who aligned with Finneran earned the speaker's temporary affection. Perhaps the opportunity to snag a \$7,500 pay raise and a bigger corner office is enough to sway the most well-intentioned representative. But even that lure can't blind them to the fact that Finneran, like a scheming castaway on *Survivor*, makes and breaks alliances at will, just to keep himself on top. If any of Finneran's new friends raise their voices once, they risk the same punishment that he gave to his old friends like Petersen.

Even more troubling than Finneran's power play is Rogers's ascension to the throne. The new Ways and Means chair has been identified by most Boston media as Finneran's heir. It's dangerous enough to have a sycophant in any position of power — after all, how will he speak for himself when his lips are permanently affixed to his predecessor's backside? — but it's even more dangerous when that sycophant brings a conservative social agenda to the table. Rogers has repeatedly professed social views which run counter to those of most Bay Staters. He opposes abortion rights, supports school vouchers, and has sponsored legislation which would uphold the "sanctity of marriage" by limiting the sacrament to heterosexual couples only. And now, this man and his controversial views are just a heartbeat away.

The House's foundation of democracy is starting to shake. The people of Massachusetts need to wise up and fix it before it crumbles.

Sense and Sensibility

Roy Esaki

Like so many other students and faculty keenly interested in learning the social graces of our society, I invested an afternoon last Friday in the Stratton School for Charm, both as a student and a faculty member. Judging from the amount of public media interest (there was even a *USA Today* reporter at the event), there's something intriguing about the premise of stereotypical, socially inept nerds taking classes like "Flirting 101." The irony is a bit harsh, but as a whole, all of us, as MIT students and as members of a new generation of debutantes, could stand to benefit from being more conscientious about etiquette, manners, and societal protocols.

I'm not sure if the Charm degrees awarded can turn a college full of Steve Urkels into regular Rhett Butlers — though I'm sure introducing oneself as a "certified Master of Charm" would make a pretty good pick-up line. Charm School was good for an afternoon of edutainment, but good manners and breeding arise from a constant self-awareness and desire to be more cognizant of one's relation with society.

For the most part, one hardly needs formal education to be charming. Most of the concepts taught at the Charm School were plain common sense. Send thank you cards promptly. Close your mouth when you eat. Say please and thank you. Smile. Don't spit in public. By the time we were six years old, we'd heard these rules thousands of times. It's not hard to exercise good etiquette; just imagine yourself in the place of the person you're interacting

with, and think how you would react in their place. It's just often difficult, especially for frazzled students, to remember to consider and appreciate the feelings and reactions of others.

To be sure, much of etiquette is comprised of arbitrary — and arguably Eurocentric, sexist, and elitist — rules and protocol. Knowing to use the utensils from the outside in is arbitrary but simple enough, but other rules, like cutting one piece of meat at a time, are quite inefficient and, I say, pointless. The iron-clad rule about

There's something intriguing about the premise of stereotypical, socially inept nerds taking classes like "Flirting 101."

looking at people in the eye when talking to them, lest you seem bored and disrespectful, always peeved me, as many Asian cultures would find such an act arrogant and insolent. True, when in Rome we must do as the Romans do, but in a culture that claims to appreciate diversity and sensitivity, more understanding should be given to people for whom averting one's gaze is a natural sign of propriety.

Then, of course, there are those chauvinistic gender-specific rules. There's nothing wrong with courtesy; I think that holding a door open, pulling out a chair for a woman, or even offering to pay for dinner is an appropriate thing to do, though some feminists who

assert a woman's freedom from such acts of patronage may disagree. Still, rules of conduct about how women should wear knee-length skirts to cater to conservative middle-aged interviewers, or how they should always be introduced to men because the person of inferior social status should be introduced to the superior, are downright senseless and upsetting. Etiquette, being developed from ages of traditions and customs of "proper society," can unfortunately be relics of a not-so-bygone era of gender and status-based patronage.

A charming person, naturally, shouldn't be a backwards-thinking, stuffy prude who snubs those who fail to adhere to the bourgeois code of conduct. Hopefully, as college students, we don't have to be concerned about being social elitists, though we must be vigilant against intellectual snobbery as we interact with the rest of our community.

A charming person can't dismiss all social norms and rules as arbitrary and conformist. We share a culture with the free-thinking Silicon valley hotshots, who are popularly known for their Nerfball-throwing, every-day-a-Casual-Friday atmosphere where you can call your boss "Steve." That's a valid standard of manners and etiquette in itself, but one should always remember that the rest of society doesn't always share this laissez-faire code of manners. We may not mind if our classmates and coworkers interrupt conversations to answer their "Für Elise"-playing cell phones, but there are a lot more people out there who do mind, and the responsible thing to do is to respect that. That, and you're always more charming in a tux.

How MIT Will Help You

Jason H. Wasfy

I've been to many medical school interviews over the past few months. They all blur together — similar questions, similar answers. But one interview started differently than the rest.

The interviewer had only just introduced herself in the waiting room and was leading me to her office when she asked me an odd question. "Were you ever an Eagle Scout?"

I hardly even know what an Eagle Scout is, I have never been a Boy Scout of any sort, and I had no idea why she asked me that. I responded, irreverently, that I hadn't been an Eagle Scout and that I sure hoped none of my recommendation-writers had tried to embellish my record by claiming that I was.

She laughed. "No, don't worry," she continued, "I was just wondering because I just read a report by a director of a surgical residency program on how to identify graduating medical students who will become among the best surgeons. The answer had nothing to do with the student's medical training. The author said that there are two sure-fire ways to predict that a medical student will become a good doctor. One of them is whether the medical student was an Eagle Scout when he was a kid."

I gazed at her, hopelessly befuddled. "And the other?" I asked.

"Whether the medical student holds any sort of degree from MIT."

That's a pretty strong conclusion, when you think about it. One of the two best ways to predict whether a medical student will

Two facts predict if a medical student will become a good doctor. One of them is if the student was an Eagle Scout. The other? If the student holds any sort of degree from MIT.

develop into a good surgeon is not his medical school, his recommendations, his dexterity, or his scores on the medical boards. Rather, with high certainty, a medical student will become a good surgeon if sometime in his life, he worked his way through MIT, no matter what the course of study or how many years had passed since that student's days at the Institute.

This sort of strong endorsement of the preparation that MIT provides for medical school stood in stark contrast to what I saw and heard at a pre-med panel discussion over IAP. One of the panelists said that anyone who chose MIT knowing that he or she planned to apply to medical school was making a stupid choice, because the classes are so difficult here. I think the physician who said that was right, to some extent — work here that receives a D or an F might earn a B+ at Stanford or Yale.

But I don't think that the tougher grading here is bad in the long run, even for prospective physicians. Because the Institute has held its bar so high as our peer schools have gradually lowered their standards, the world outside MIT has come to hold great respect for an MIT degree. Sure, a degree from Stanford or Yale or from any other of America's great universities almost always inspires respect. But I really don't think that any of those schools commands the same sort of awe that MIT does. The reason why medical students become better surgeons if they've sampled the MIT experience is probably because they've learned to work hard when the odds seem daunting.

Classes are just starting up again. When you're staring down a tough problem set at three in the morning, remember how much these few years will give you and have already given you. I don't mean to imply that an MIT degree is any more useful for a future in surgery than for any other profession. Hard work and perseverance, while certainly requisite for surgery, are important in any number of fields and situations. So don't worry too much about your future. The experience that we're all going through now will pay dividends in future respect, and more importantly, in developing a work ethic that can accomplish just about anything.



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February 6, 2001

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We know you've got a lot of work to do in finishing up that lab assignment or preparing for midterms. But, we at MagicBeanStalk have taken out this ad to tell you about an event you cannot afford to miss. Tomorrow evening, our **UpStart101** program descends upon Cambridge for a night of unparalleled insight into what it is like to work for a Next Economy company. Ask yourself this: Are you the type of person who loves challenges? Are you looking for that company that will allow you to get creative with your engineering or that internship that involves more than faxing and copying? Do you ever dream of a job experience that allows you to both work and play hard? Okay, maybe dreaming is taking it a little too far! But, if you answered yes to any of the above questions, you'd be doing yourself a real disservice by skipping tomorrow's UpStart101. Our goal is to help you understand how to find that dream job or internship. We've gathered some hot, new companies along with Industry executives who will be speaking to their own personal experiences in finding that "right" job and how you can prepare yourself while still here at MIT. The event is free and open to all majors.

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THE ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

The Ptolemy Players: A Musical Tour Through Eastern Europe

Enchanting Performances of Eastern European Classical Music

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

Last Sunday, chamber music enthusiasts had the opportunity to attend a concert featuring the Ptolemy Players, a heterogeneous ensemble made up of MIT students, alumni and affiliates. The program was comprised of pieces by Eastern European composers, namely Prokofiev, Enescu, Janacek, Bartok, Gorecki, Ligeti, and Gorczycki. All the performances were very good and warmly applauded by an enthusiastic audience that completely filled Killian Hall.

The concert opened with Prokofiev's *Overture on Hebrew Themes, Opus 34*, a beautiful piece for strings, clarinet, and piano. Although the melodic lines reflected the title, the developmental sections were true to Prokofiev's own style, full of unexpected rhythmic changes, harmonic digressions, unusual dialogues between clarinet and the strings, and virtuosic passages for the piano. The piece was performed very well, with a lot of passion and determination.

Gorecki's *String Quartet No. 1*, subtitled *Already it is Dusk*, is a contemporary piece, written in a style that uses the classical attire of the quartet with some unusual modern rhythmic figures and non-harmony. Henryk Gorecki, a modern Polish composer, was inspired to write his first string quartet by a folk song of the same title. The atmosphere of the dusk is beautifully rendered by the second violin and viola, which play a descending motif, while the cello holds long, low notes. The starting sequence is repeated four times and followed by an abrupt fast section full of countless repeated notes. The piece ends with the beginning motif that finally discovers a rather consonant ninth chord. A difficult piece overall, it was played very well by four members of the Ptolemy Players.

A marvelous and very difficult piece, Enescu's *String Quartet No. 1* is a mature work that combines a romantic view with

innovative elements and some folk motifs. George Enescu, a famous Romanian composer, proves his deep understanding of chamber music resources by utilizing a large scale of musical statement elements. The melodic motifs are developed by all the instruments, and there are nice musical dialogues between registers and at times the rhythmic patterns evolve into torrents of passion. Another very difficult piece, it was handled quite well by another student string quartet.

After intermission, an unexpected episode of choral music followed. Fragments from *Missa Rorate* by Grzegorz Gorczycki and the lament song *Bujdosó*, by Gyorgy Ligeti were well-performed by a group of thirteen from among the Ptolemy Players. These pieces, written by modern composers, are very lyrical and feature a traditional and very enjoyable four-part harmony.

Mladi, a wind sextet by Leos Janacek, was the next piece performed. It features alert rhythmic patterns on top of lyrical folk-like tunes, especially in the concise fast movements. The drive was interrupted by solo cadenzas very nicely played by the French horn. The slow movement featured a melody on the oboe and repeated notes motifs that eventually led to an abrupt ending. All the players performed very well, rendering this interesting piece with a lot of passion and statement.

The concert ended with two movements from Bela Bartok's *String Quartet No. 5*, admirably performed by another string quartet from the Ptolemy Players. Like most of Bartok's music, this quartet features undecided, sad motifs that wander outside the traditional harmony. The rhythm is essential because it creates tension which is later amplified by particularly dissonant chords. The last movement, very terse and furious, features a fugal development of short motifs and ends abruptly after a very long coda. This performance was probably the best from the



JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

Lisa Messeri '04 and Tina Shih '04 confer about who loves who in an excerpt from *As You Like It*, part of the Shakespeare Ensemble's IAP scene night, "A Sudden Show."

whole concert and ultimately proved that Bartok's mostly incomprehensible music is actually very expressive.

Unfortunately, the program brochure was completely cryptic. The name of the ensemble was spelled only in hieroglyphics, and there was very little information about the composers and the groups that performed. Furthermore, the geography test on the last page was

confusing and obviously too hard for an unwarned American audience. Finally, given the dedication of the concert to the celebration of ten years of Russian democracy, I expected to hear more Russian music.

However, the concert was a beautiful event full of enchanting performances that proved once again that MIT students and alumni have a high interest in music.

MUSIC REVIEW

State of the Airwaves

Meat Puppets, Murphys, and moe

By Dan Katz

STAFF WRITER

Let me open up this week's column by discussing the difference between Pearl Jam and Limp Bizkit. Most music fans have heard about the tragic deaths that occurred during Pearl Jam's set at this summer's Roskilde Festival in Denmark. This was by no means the band's fault, but Eddie Vedder was extremely apologetic and took the situation very seriously. Last week, a similar crowd-related death occurred when Limp Bizkit played the Big Day Out in Australia. Responsibly, lead vocalist Fred Durst responded to this sad news with an announcement on his website that included the following: "We pulled out of the Big Day Out shows because a girl died at our show because of the shitty security. We told the BDO Security to make it better and they said to piss off."

The rest of the article was devoted to other extremely important issues, such as whether the band gets along with Korn and Slipknot. It is disgusting (yet not all surprising) that Durst thinks that the death of a fan only warrants a casual mention in a general news update (and one that focuses on blaming others). It's a well-known fact that Durst is horribly egotistical, but it's lovely to learn that his band is more important to him than someone's life.

With that rant out of the way, let's talk about concerts (in smaller, safer venues). Welsh rockers Stereophonics have a special low-key acoustic show at the Paradise Thursday night; I think it's sold out though. The Sno-Core Tour is split in two this year, and the rock half, featuring Kittie, Fear Factory, Union Underground, Slaves On

Dope, and Boy Hits Car, passes through the Palladium in Worcester on Friday. Saturday, the Meat Puppets stop by Lilli's, and on Sunday, punk invades the Avalon in the form of Face To Face, H2O, and Snapcase. Finally, on Monday night at the Avalon, there's a show with Everlast and unlikely openers Dexter Freebish. If somebody figures



JOSEPH CULTICE

The Meat Puppets rock Lilli's this Saturday with their idiosyncratic style.

out what demographic these two bands both cater to, please clue me in.

But with the onset of the term, you probably don't have time to devote an entire night to a concert ... so spend a few minutes to run to the music store, and grab one of today's new releases. *Simply Mortified* is the second effort

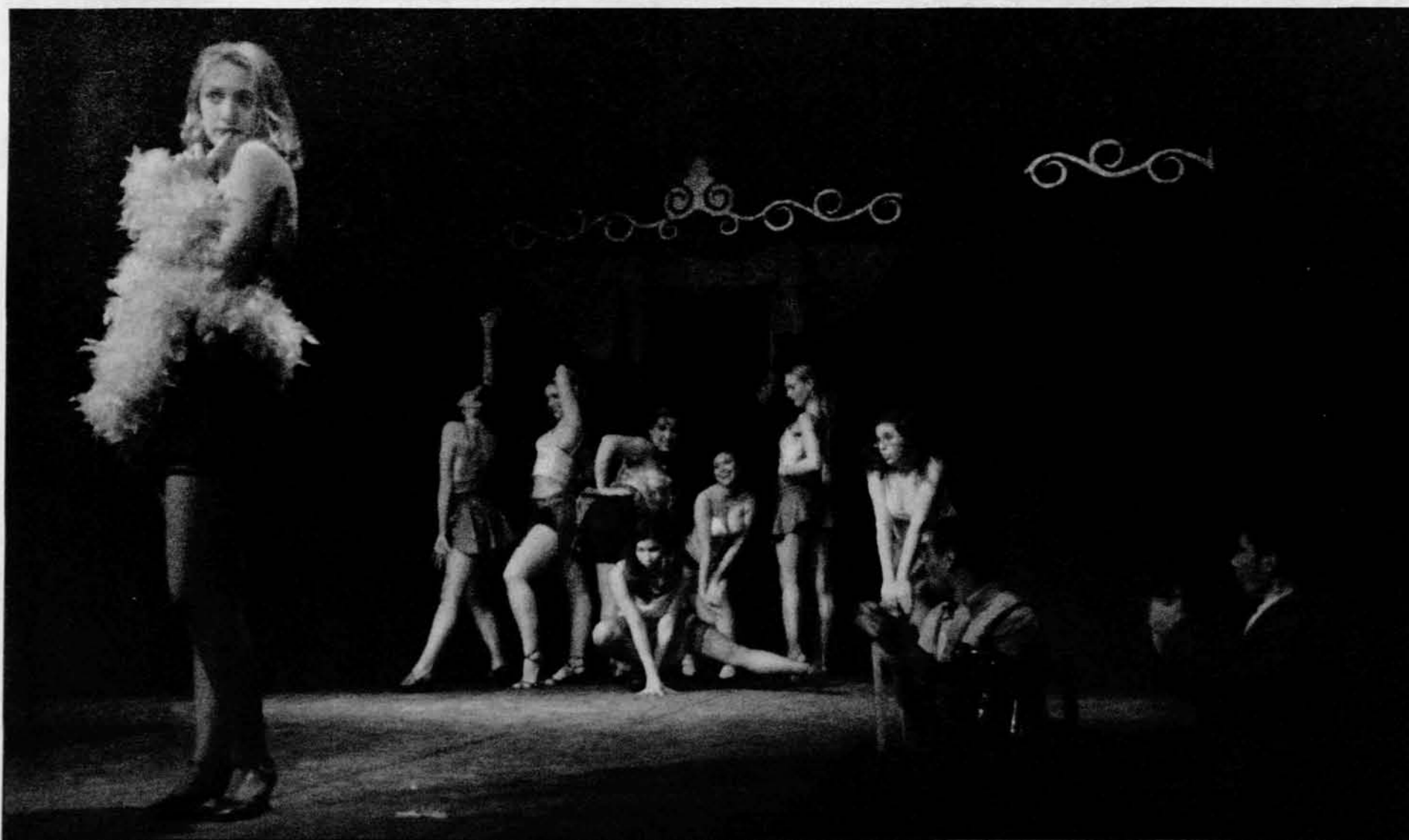
from BS 2000, the side project of Ad Rock from the Beastie Boys. The Dropkicks Murphys release *Sing Loud, Sing Proud* today, and the cult-favorite jam band moe have a disc out called *dither*. Tricky, one of the pioneers of trip-hop, unveils an EP with the name *Mission Accomplished*, and finally, Propagandhi's new one is called *Today's Empire, Tomorrow's Ashes*.

Travis Meeks of Days of the New, who's almost as full of himself as Mr. Durst, probably thinks he cut off dead weight when he fired his entire band. An upcoming effort under the name Tantric shows that the truth may be just the opposite. The lead-off single, "Breakdown," integrates the distinct arpeggios that Days of the New are known for with quite a bit more personality. It's nothing catchy enough to pull off the mass mainstream appeal of, say, "Touch, Peel, and Stand," but it's far better than anything on Days of the New's second album.

Finally, the long-awaited results of the 2000 Airwaves Reader Award ... well, they're very indecisive. The problem with not specifying nominees and only having a limited number of people cast votes is that you aren't likely to see a lot of choice overlap.

The album category had a clear winner though: the same album I chose as the best of the year, Radiohead's *Kid A*. It was the only album that appeared on three voters' Top 3 lists (and in the number one position on all of them). As for singles, there was no definitive winner, since nobody voted for the same songs. For what it's worth, votes went to artists as diverse as Eminem, XTC, A Perfect Circle, and Cold. This is good because it means people are paying attention to my catch phrase.

Speaking of that catch phrase, it's coming up again in a moment. But first I must, as always, implore you to let me know what you think of this column, recent music events, local shows, radio singles, and whatever moves you to pick up a ... um ... keyboard. Send your comments and/or complaints to <airwaves@the-tech.mit.edu>. Until the next time our paths cross, try to survive your return to classes, and keep expanding your horizons.



THEATER REVIEW

*Cabaret**A Night in Berlin*

By Amy Meadows

STAFF WRITER

MIT Musical Theatre Guild

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Directed by Edmund Golaski G

Produced by Tree Raine '99

Choreographed by Stephanie Sharo '01

Starring Steve Niemczyk G, Welkin Pope G,

Pete Chambers G, Jessica Brodtkin '03, Dan

Lowrey '02, and Jessica Hinel '02

February 8, 9, and 10, 8pm

La Sala de Puerto Rico

Tickets: \$6 for MIT/Wellesley students, \$8 MIT

Staff and Faculty, Other Students, Senior Citi-

zens, and \$9 General Admission

The Musical Theatre Guild's *Cabaret* highlights the excesses and illusions of a group of pre-World War II Berliners. Despite Nazism on the horizon, the Kit Kat Club supports an alcohol-drenched, free-spirited patronage. From the viewpoint of a young American caught up in the collective denial of times, we see the onslaught of Hitler from all standpoints — the young and the old, the idealistic and the pragmatic, the Jew and the Gentile.

On the whole, most of the main characters held their own with strong individual performances. Pete Chambers G as Cliff, the drifting American writer, brought strength and subtlety to a performance full of excess. As the earnest everyman, he gained and held the audience's sympathy throughout the play. The view of the crazy Berlin world, after all, was his, and as his disillusionment grew, so did the audience's.

As the foil to Cliff's everyman, Sally Bowles (played by Welkin Pope G) was the over-the-top star of *Cabaret*. The overly dramatic elements of her character were perfectly appropriate, and she maintained the emotional believability and sincerity of her character. "Don't Tell Mama" highlighted both her voice and self-assurance.

Jess Brodtkin '03 took the role of the disillusioned landlord Fraulein Schneider and transformed it from a crotchety old lady to a

spunky, independent spinster forced into making painful decisions. In "So What," "It Couldn't Please Me More," and "What Would You Do," she elicited laughter and heartache from the audience.

Although in the beginning Steve Niemczyk G seemed especially nervous as the sardonic emcee, he soon glided into his role as chief commentator. He succeeded as the over-the-top performer in a play of over-the-top performances. However, he smoothly pulled off the allegorical aspect of *Cabaret* without making it too obvious or heavy-handed.

Other strong individual performances were by Dan Lowrey '02, Jessica Hinel '02, and Alan deLespinasse '94. Peter Chambers G shined in the second act with "I Don't Care Much" and "If You Could See Her."

The individual performances were generally much stronger than the ones involving the whole production. The somber *a capella* version of "Tomorrow Belongs to Me" was truly a highlight of the male cast, but there were few other triumphs with large groups of the cast. Furthermore, most of the large dance numbers like "The Telephone Dance" were long, awkward, and uncomfortable.

The first half was significantly longer and had a few dragging scenes. Much of the character development could have been made more concise by eliminating the awkward scenes. There were long stretches where little actually happened, and the plot stagnated. There were perhaps too many confrontations between Fraulein Schneider and Fraulein Kost and her sailors.

However, the most notable and interesting aspect was the success of the play's staging. There were essentially two distinct sets on each side of La Sala de Puerto Rico, and the orchestra remained out front. The cast members went — in character — into the audience beforehand, chatting and raving about Berlin.

Moreover, there were several audience seats in cabaret-style, with round tables and drinks at intermission.

Overall *Cabaret* is a play with strong individual performances and a distinctive stage setup. It is smooth and original.

JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

(money) "Money makes the world go 'round," according to the Kit Kat Club's eccentric emcee (front).

(girls) Two patrons enjoy the Kit Kat's collection of sexy dancers in one of *Cabaret*'s many song-and-dance interludes, "Don't Tell Mama."

(singer) Star attraction Sally Bowles sums up one of the play's major themes in the heart-wrenching song "Cabaret."

THEATER REVIEW

*The Zoo**Pillow and Armadillo*

By Lance Nathan

MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players
 Libretto by Bolton Rowe (B.C. Stephenson)
 Music by Sir Arthur S. Sullivan
 Directed by Rebecca Consentino Hains and
 Stephanie C. Wang '02
 Starring Ishani Das '02, Gregory Baker G,
 David Euresi '01, Ana Albir '04, Cemocan
 Yesil '03, Seth Bisen-Hersh '01, and Victoria
 Davis '04
 February 2, 3, and 4
 Morss Hall
 Walker Memorial

Last weekend, the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players performed *The Zoo*, a one-act operetta by Bolton Rowe (B.C. Stephenson) and Arthur S. Sullivan from an era when villains could be recognized by their black capes and oversized mutchchops.

The Players transformed Walker Memo-

rial into the London Zoological Gardens by means of a well-designed set that began in the lobby. An archway announced the entrance to the zoo: "Open daily till dusk — free admission!" with "Guided Tours at 3 and 8 p.m. daily." The hall itself had, in addition to the main stage, signs scattered about the room directing visitors to the aviary, the lions, and a stage labeled "Theatre of the Zoo." Given a difficult space, the players made the most of it.

Directors Rebecca Hains and Stephanie Wang '02 prefaced the rather short piece with a framing story: a tour guide leads members of the British public on a tour of the zoo, with a stop at the stage to see an excerpt from the end of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*. Ishani Das '02, who played the tour guide, and Gregory Baker G, who played Edwin, both stood out among a collection of strong performances.

After a brief segue, the actors from *Trial by Jury* joined the public for the opening song

of *The Zoo*. It was immediately striking that the directors had taken care to work with the chorus. Each chorus member had his or her own character and stage business that followed naturally. The chorus included a child with her grandparents, a janitor with a broom, and an alcoholic who offered brandy when someone fainted. Occasionally the chorus upstaged the main action with a little too much melodrama, but by and large the melodrama fit the tone of the piece. This is not to say that the leads were overshadowed; the chorus offered a welcome and entertaining counterpoint to the leads.

The operetta itself contains two subplots. In one, an apothecary, Æsculapius Carboy (David Euresi '01), attempts to kill himself over his love for Laetitia (Ana Albir '04) — a love not unrequited, but thwarted by her father, Grinder (Cemocan Yesil '03). In the other, Thomas Brown (Seth Bisen-Hersh '01) woos the proprietor of a refreshment stall at the zoo, Eliza (Victoria Davis '04), a task that leads him to consume so many sweets (and some animal food) that he collapses. Naturally, all ends well. Brown is revealed as the Duke of Islington in disguise, prompting him to propose marriage to Eliza and pay Grinder to let his daughter marry the apothecary.

Of the principals, Bisen-Hersh was perhaps the best of the lot, delightfully playing

up his fainting spell and a solo-with-chorus that begins, "Unaccustomed as I am to public, ah, ah ..." Yesil, too, clearly enjoyed his role, scowling and menacing his way across the stage, frowning at the audience's applause during the curtain call until he got his proper boos and hisses. Albir, given a somewhat less interesting part, held her own by means of a strong voice and impressive range.

If there were any weaknesses in the production, one would be Euresi's apparent discomfort with his role. He seemed to play to the audience more than the other characters, who spoke to the onstage public. Furthermore, he often seemed startled to find himself singing. The other weakness would be Davis's on-again, off-again Cockney accent, which distracted only somewhat from an otherwise fine performance.

But these were minor quibbles, easily forgivable in a show clearly out to have fun and a production that was, from start to finish, delightful. The acting and singing were very good, the costumes impressive, the lighting and set put to good use to accentuate the performance, and the choreography and direction well done. Though the plot may have had all the depth of a toddler's wading pool, *The Zoo* was a fine production. After all, how can one fail to enjoy anything that rhymes "pillow" with "armadillo"?

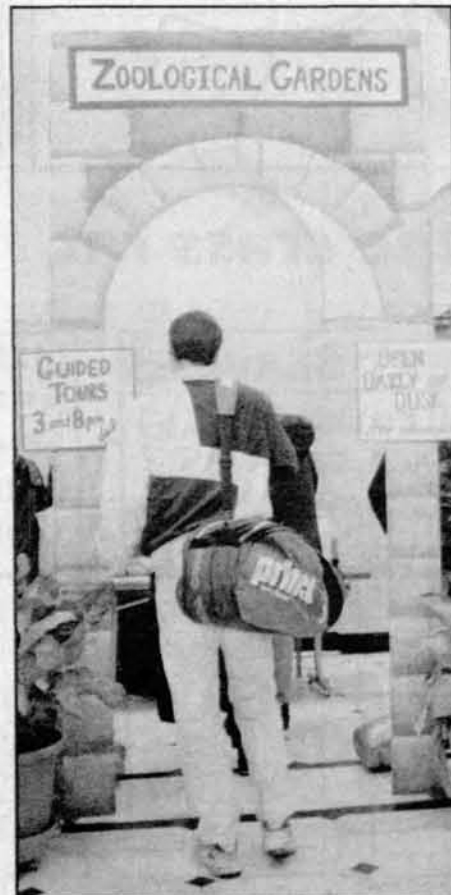


JAMES CAMP—THE TECH

(left) The Duke of Islington, revealed as a disguised aristocrat in search of virtue, feigns humility as the zoogoers shower him with praise.

(right) Walker Memorial's Morss Hall was transformed into a whimsical zoological garden last weekend for G&S's production of *The Zoo*.

(below) Æsculapius Carboy, an out-of-luck apothecary trying very hard to commit suicide, takes a stern lecture from refreshment-stand vendor Eliza Smith, who talks him out of hanging himself.



Down with Science

by Jennifer DiMase



the crass rat



By Guan-Jong (John) Chen

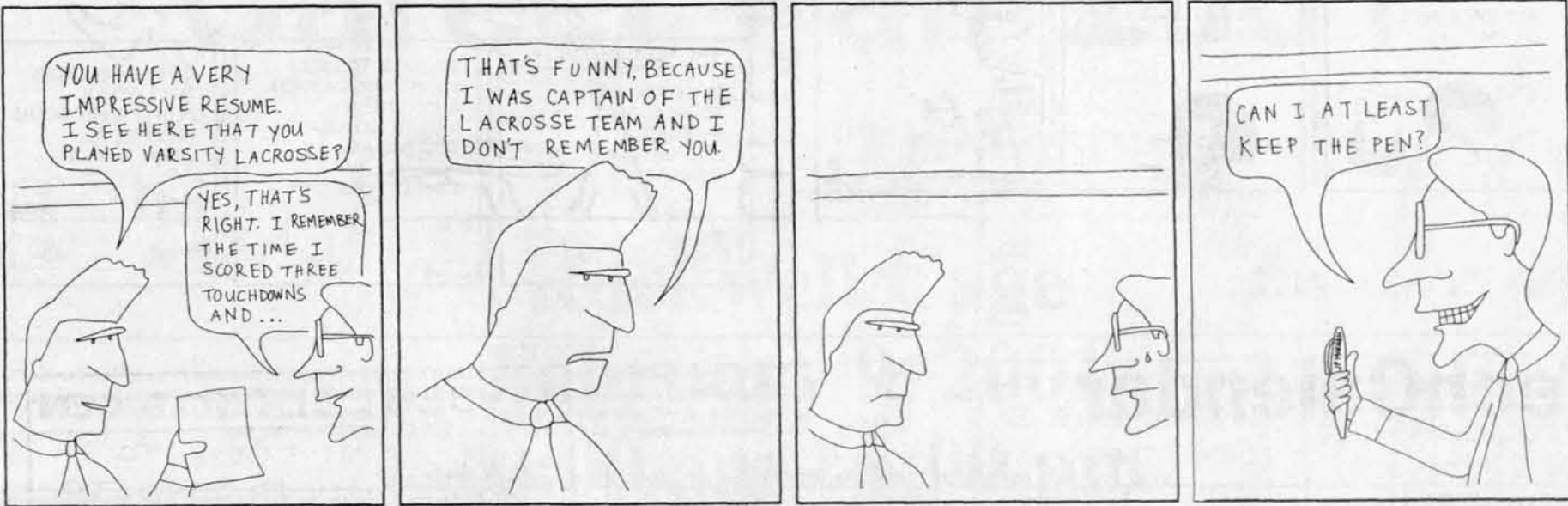


Tech Life



Thank You for your Interest

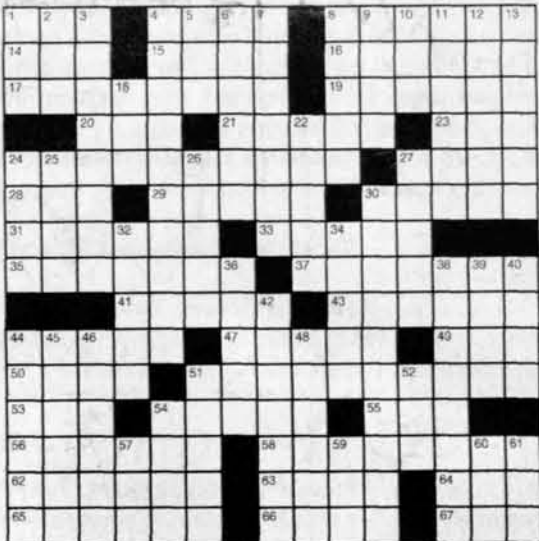
Dave, Kara, and Raj



**Crossword
Puzzle**

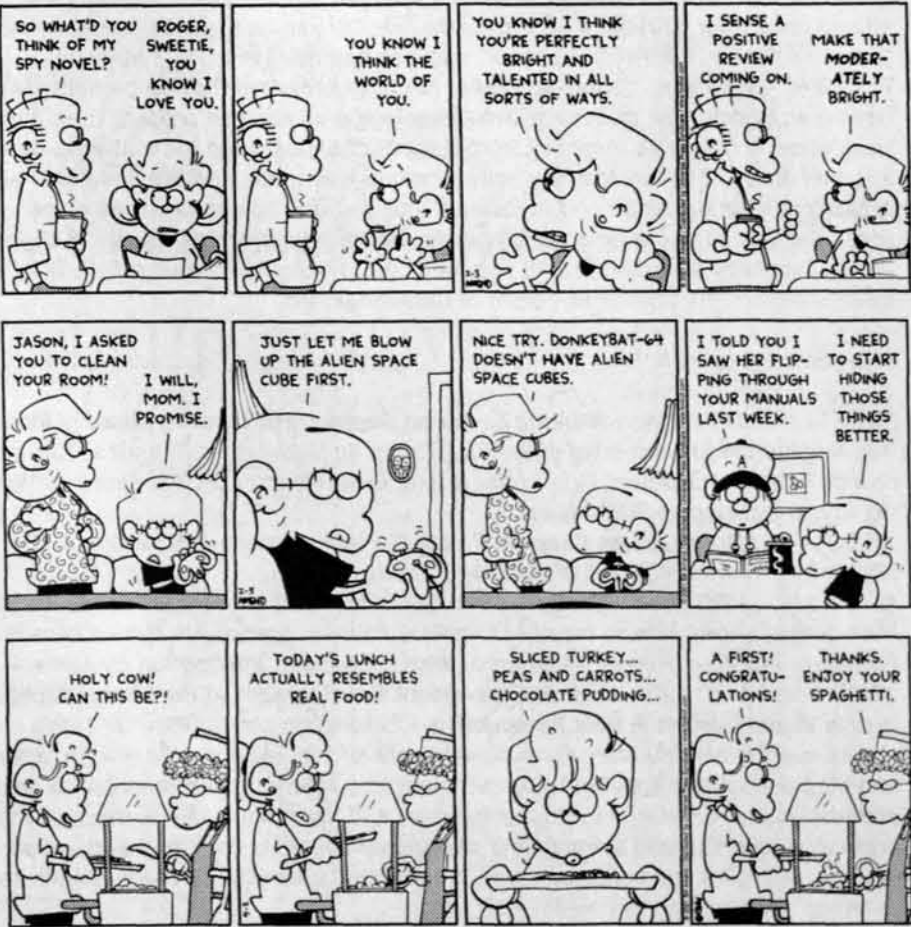
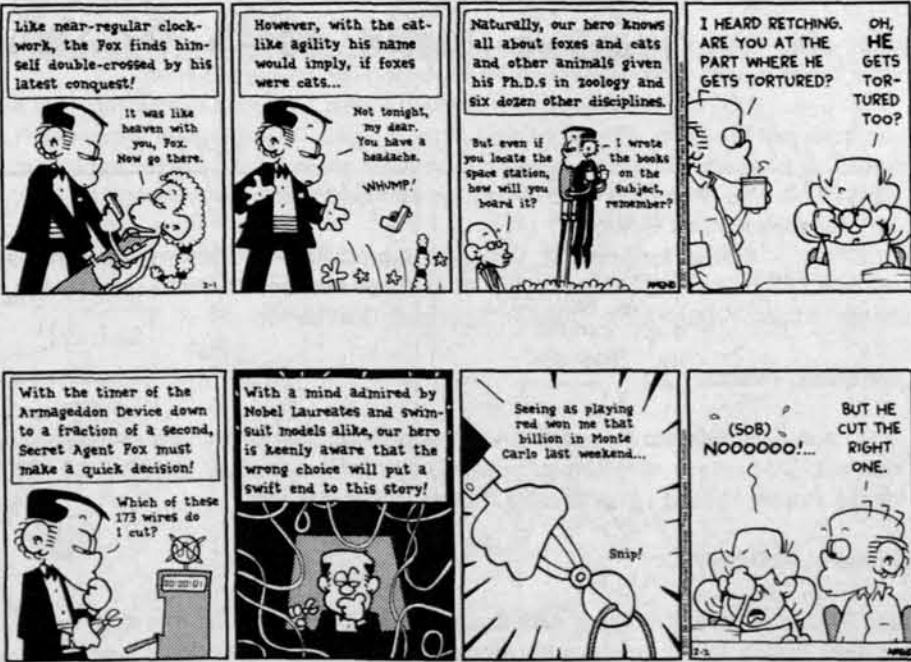
Solution, page 26

- ACROSS
- 1 Recede
 - 4 Mardi
 - 8 Before hostilities
 - 14 Letters in the theater
 - 15 Misleading device
 - 16 Let in fresh air
 - 17 "Diana" singer
 - 19 Separated
 - 20 Oxford fellow
 - 21 Homeric epic
 - 23 Forlorn
 - 24 Overcast condition
 - 27 Medication unit
 - 28 Floral loop
 - 29 Ballplayer Wade
 - 30 Skin cream
 - 31 Aviator
 - 33 Saint James or Sarandon
 - 35 Of a certain fraternal order
 - 37 Ambassador's headquarters
 - 41 Scandinavian poet
 - 43 Cry of discovery
 - 44 Crucifix
 - 47 Of the ear
 - 49 Poorly lit
 - 50 Impose a tax
 - 51 Long-haired felines
 - 53 Keatsian work
 - 54 Canadian territory
 - 55 Little'un
 - 56 Ethel of Broadway
 - 58 Incorporeal
 - 62 Overbearing scholar
 - 63 Stadium layer
 - 64 Be beholding to
 - 65 Artist's coats
 - 66 Discerns
 - 67 Original
 - Newfoundland
 - 5 Stocking flaw
 - 6 Inquiring
 - 7 Balance aboard
 - 8 Dads
 - 9 Interpret
 - 10 Make a mistake
 - 11 Sherlock's pal
 - 12 Relaxed
 - 13 More embarrassed
 - 18 Reed or Rawls
 - 22 Discharge
 - 24 Happy mollusk?
 - 25 Carrie in "Star Wars"
 - 26 Samos region
 - 27 God of thunder
 - 30 Figures' totalers
 - 32 Lichen-covered
 - 34 Slander
 - 36 Nonresonant metallic sound
 - 38 Drug-induced sleep
 - 39 Sketch
 - 40 Edible tubers
 - 42 Crude canoes
 - 44 Walks heavily
 - 45 Pay off a note
 - 46 Carry things too far
 - 48 Van Zant of Lynyrd Skynyrd
 - 51 Mother's sisters
 - 52 \$-due mail
 - 54 Abrupt pull
 - 57 Fella
 - 59 Spelling contest
 - 60 Ram's mate
 - 61 Morning moisture
- DOWN
- 1 Clairvoyant's letters
 - 2 Bikini top
 - 3 Women's sitting rooms
 - 4 Shoals off



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FoxTrot by Bill Amend



Dilbert® by Scott Adams



TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. The *Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page.

Visit and add events to TechCalendar online at <http://tech-calendar.mit.edu>

Tuesday, February 6

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Focus on the Arts: "Liselotte: Portrait of a 17th Century Lady."** Using the letters and life of Liselotte von der Pfalz (who became Louis XIV's sister-in-law) as a backdrop, luteist Catherine Liddell performs 17th century French lute music and music in the French style by German composers. Bring a bag lunch; dessert and beverages will be provided. Reservations required. free. Room: President's House. Sponsor: MIT Women's League.

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - **Einstein's Enemies: Relativity Theory in Germany, 1913-1920.** Dibner Institute Lunchtime Colloquia. free. Room: E56-100. Sponsor: Dibner Institute.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Excel User Group.** free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - **Toward a General Theory of Bose-Einstein Condensation.** Refreshments at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar, Department of Mathematics.

Wednesday, February 7

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **PowerPoint Quick Start.** PowerPoint makes it easy to jazz up your presentations. Get an introduction to what PowerPoint can do. Find out how to create shows. Learn how to use drawing tools, graphics, and create handouts. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **spouses&partners@mit - Hello and Welcome!** We'll welcome our new members and hear stories from our old members. Newcomers should bring their questions and concerns. Please join us for snacks and conversation. free. Room: W20-400. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical.

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **Start-up Clinic.** Attendees discover how to present a business plan to potential investors. Two pre-selected companies present their business plans and receive feedback from a panel of experts and the audience over an informal dinner. The key learning points include how plans and presentations are evaluated; what investors and evaluators look for, and how to fine-tune plans and presentations. These events are limited to 60 preregistered individuals. \$35 for Forum members & students; \$45 non-members. Room: MIT Faculty Club, Bldg. E52. Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc.

Thursday, February 8

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Working Group on Support Staff Issues Monthly Meeting.** Regular monthly meeting of Working Group on Support Staff Issues. This month: Time Management Tips!. free. Room: Bush Room, 10-105. Sponsor: Working Group on Support Staff Issues.

12:00 p.m. - **Noon Chapel Concert.** Takae Ohnishi, harpsichord. Works of J.S. Bach.. free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Music Section.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **FileMaker Pro Quick Start.** This session introduces database terms, shows how to create a simple database, and covers the six modes of FileMaker Pro. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Activity-Dependent Development of Functional Architecture in Visual Cortex: A New Perspective.** CLM Plastic Lunch Seminar Series occurs every other Thursday at noon, when one of the Faculty of Center for Learning and Memory hosts a speaker to discuss research related to our mission: to decipher molecular, cellular, neuronal ensemble, and the brain systems mechanisms underlying Learning and Memory and associated cognitive functions such as perception, attention and consciousness. free. Room: E25-401. Sponsor: Center for Learning and Memory. Elly Nedivi PhD.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - **MIT Industry Leaders in Technology and Management.** Dreams Come True: How Technology Empowers Imagination in the Internet Age. free. Room: Edgerton Hall Bldg. 34-101. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/ILP. MIT Center for Technology, Policy, and Industrial Development.

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - **Effects Of Transients On Catalyst Performance.** Refreshments at 4:00. free. Room: 31-161. Sponsor: Sloan Automotive and Reacting Gas Dynamics Labs.

4:30 p.m. - **New Environmental Initiatives and Gender: An Analysis of Community Forestry in South Asia.** Lecture on Environmentalism. free. Room: Stella Room. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program. DUSP.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - **An Evening with David Barsamian.** David Barsamian is the producer of the award-winning syndicated radio program, "Alternative Radio". His interview books with luminaries such as Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn and Egbal Ahmad have sold in the hundreds of thousands. Co-Sponsored with the South End Press. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - **The Feminist Case Against Abortion.** MIT Pro-Life welcomes Serrin Foster, a national speaker from Feminists for Life, to give a lecture called "The Feminist Case Against Abortion." The lecture will be followed by a question and answer period.. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Pro-Life, MIT.

8:00 p.m. - **School for Scandal.** Dramashop production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's 1777 comedy, directed by Senior Lecturer Michael Ouellette. \$8, \$6 MIT students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dramashop.

Friday, February 9

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Al-Anon Open Discussion: Al-Anon Meeting.** free. Room: E25-101. Sponsor: MIT Medical.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Eudora Quick Start.** This session shows how to configure Eudora, create messages and address lists, send and receive attachments, and sort incoming e-mail. . free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - **"On the Road in 2020: An Assessment of Future Automotive Technology".** free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: ME Seminar Series.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - **Valentine's Potluck Party.** Everyone in your family is welcome to join the party. Please bring a dish to share - 8 servings of a main dish, salad, or dessert. In case of inclement weather, please call Jennifer Recklet at 253-1614. free. Room: 10-105. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit, MIT Medical. MIT Japanese Wives Group.

8:00 p.m. - **School for Scandal.** Dramashop production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's 1777 comedy, directed by Senior Lecturer Michael Ouellette. \$8, \$6 MIT students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dramashop.

Saturday, February 10

8:00 p.m. - **School for Scandal.** Dramashop production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's 1777 comedy, directed by Senior Lecturer Michael Ouellette. \$8, \$6 MIT students. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Dramashop.

Monday, February 12

12:00 p.m. - **Arts Colloquia: Arts Colloquium.** MIT faculty and arts staff are invited to hear Wendy Jacob, assistant professor, Architecture, speak on her work. Lunch will be served; reservations required by Feb. 7. free. Room: TBA. Sponsor: Associate Provost for the Arts.

Tau Beta Pi Career Fair 2001

Rockwell Cage
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10:00 am - 3:00 pm
<http://web.mit.edu/tbp/careerfair/>

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 **TEXAS
INSTRUMENTS**

Students Work to Raise Quake Funds for India, El Salvador

By Nancy L. Keuss

STAFF REPORTER

Long after a destructive earthquake rocks the Richter scale and well after initial emergency relief efforts end, there remains the sizable task of rebuilding toppled communities. One new student-based humanitarian aid group is raising money for organizations that not only provide emergency relief but also eventually shift over to long-term disaster reconstruction work.

United Trauma Relief, formed in December by MIT undergraduate Sanjay Basu '02, is currently accepting donations to aid the Red Cross and grassroots organizations in two areas of urgent need.

One major focus is the January 26 earthquake that hit India's western state of Gujarat, leaving tens of thousands of people dead. Another is the January 13 earthquake that jolted El Salvador and left over one hundred dead and up to 1200 missing.

"There's a lot to be done in the area of trauma relief. There really aren't any easy avenues for college students for this sort of thing. There have been isolated [aid] groups at all schools, but we've now started this coalition," Basu said.

Basu believes that the most help comes from low-profile dedicated non-government organizations, so-called "poor person-led organizations," rather than highly-visible disaster organizations or US aid agencies.

Basu noted of some aid groups: "There is a big problem by what is called 'dumping,' in which a government or private company, such as a pharmaceutical company, may donate a large amount of medical supplies to appear humanitarian, but most of which turns out to be expired and thus useless."

Payal P. Parekh G, a volunteer of AID-Boston, also emphasized the importance of funding aid organizations that are already locally active in quake-hit areas.

"After the international aid agencies leave, these are the organizations that will stick around. These are also the organizations that know the area, the language, and the culture well. They are essential to get aid to the

most remote areas," Parekh said.

United Trauma Relief aims to help with both epidemic services and refugee/disaster services. This part of the collected funds will go directly to long-term aid such as construction of clinics, mental health treatment, primary care, and sustained rebuilding of homes and hospitals.

Donations collected for Gujarat relief are directed to the Association for India's Development, a volunteer organization that works with grassroots aid groups in affected areas, while funds raised in response to the El Salvador earthquake are sent to the organization Medicins Sans Frontieres.

In its first week, United Trauma Relief raised roughly \$2000 for India aid and \$1000 for El Salvador relief.

In addition to monetary donations, United Trauma Relief has collected clothing and blankets, which have been arranged to be carried to India by Northwest Airlines and Air India.

Basu formed the group under the advisership of Program in Science, Technology, and Society Professor Evelyn M. Hammonds, and with a large amount of faculty support.

The United Trauma Relief booth will remain in Lobby 10 for earthquake aid through the rest of this week.



KATIE JEFFREYS—THE TECH
Caroline H. Lee '02 and Sanjay Basu '02 staff the earthquake relief booth, the proceeds of which will benefit victims of the recent earthquakes in El Salvador and India.

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SAMUDRA VIJAY—THE TECH

Meteorologist Harvey Leonard of Channel 7 spoke at MIT and shared his thoughts on "What it is like to forecast weather on TV." Leonard spoke for an IAP course on weather forecasting organized by the EAPS department.

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MIT, Cambridge Differ Over How MIT Will Assist Schools

State of the City, from Page 1

system.
"All three of the universities involved must take their lead from [Cambridge public schools] superintendent" Bobbie D'Alessandro, MIT Co-Director of Government and Community Relations Paul Parravano said. "Universities don't have all the answers but they have some resources."

President Charles M. Vest described the agreement as forming an even less directly involved "advisory committee to help the city develop focused strategies to improve the quality of its schools." Responding to Galluccio's characterization of the agreement, Vest reiterated the advisory nature of the agreement: "What we have agreed to do is form an advisory committee. We will work hard toward improving the success and effectiveness of education, but of course we are not 'responsible' for the school system," he said.

Others in the city government seemed to favor the greater involvement suggested by the mayor. Vice Mayor and former school committee member David Maher said that Cambridge's universities have a responsibility to share their knowledge and resources with the community.

Agreement reached at dinner

The agreement announced last week had its genesis at a dinner President Vest hosted for members of the MIT faculty, City Council, and School Committee.

At the meeting, Vest said that officials discussed ways that MIT students and faculty already volunteer assistance to the school system. A document distributed by Parravano listed 30 different programs that assist Cambridge schools ranging from donating conference space and computers to running seminars for local science teachers.

Galluccio acknowledged the large number of existing programs which involve local universities with the public school system but said that such efforts were "piecemeal." The universities have "no real sense of ownership" with respect to the schools, Galluccio said.

Although it is unclear what programs this new agreement would add to MIT's involvement with the schools, Parravano said that a possible goal for the collaboration would be an increase in qualified MIT applicants from Cambridge. The Institute could help to achieve that goal by becoming more involved in science education, through programs such as the Science Expo that MIT sponsors each year.

Despite the stump-style address in which the proposal was presented, the mayor ruled out political motives. "This is about the kids," Galluccio said.



Cambridge Mayor Anthony D. Galluccio delivered the city's first State of the City address at Harvard's JFK School of Government last week. Galluccio announced that MIT would take a greater role in Cambridge's public schools under a new "Charter of Responsibility."

FRANK DABEK—THE TECH

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DIARY IDEAS

SUBJECT: My new Company

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Interested?
Come to the Beinecke Information Session

Wednesday, February 7
3 - 4 p.m., Room 1-273

Questions?
Contact Andy Eisenmann
3-8444, eisen@mit.edu
or Karen Blose, 3-9765, blose@mit.edu
or visit www.BeineckeScholarship.org

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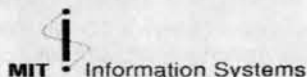
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Tuesday, February 13, 2001
at 5:15pm in the N42 Demo Center

This Info Session will consist of a brief overview of the Helpdesk, filling out an application and a short technical evaluation.

If you have any questions, please check out our hiring web page at <http://web.mit.edu/helpdesk/hiring.html> or e-mail us at hd-hiring@mit.edu.



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TIME
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Please note: On Thursday, February 8, from 7 to 8pm, Mark Hershberg, Software Engineer at Vaultus, will be giving his talk on "Software Development in the Real World" in Room 4-231. Food and drink will be provided.

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(617) 253-6294, or mtg-tickets@mit.edu



SAMUDRA VILAY—THE TECH

Blanche Staton, Associate Dean of the Graduate Students Office, and Barrie Gleason of the Communications Office presented plans for a new communications strategy to the Graduate Student Council last Wednesday. The initiative will allow the GSO to serve the graduate community more effectively by acting as a centralized information clearinghouse.



SEPHIR HAMILTON—THE TECH

Raja V. Jindal '04 snags a free chicken quesadilla from Courses chef Keith Hillock during Aramark's Spring Preview last Tuesday. The event highlighted Aramark's latest menu creations and helped get student feedback.

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A Millennium Change in the MIT Libraries

The MIT Libraries will soon begin charging for the use of library printers to make copies from the e-journals and the other electronic databases available on our Web page, libraries.mit.edu/vera. In January we will finish installing "print release stations," and on February 15th, 2001, pay-for-print will be in operation in all the libraries.

This decision has been driven by the economics of the situation. To give students 24-hour access to new and important sources of information, the Libraries have been subscribing to electronic resources at an accelerating pace. Although such subscriptions are expensive, online resources are the new "books" that we purchase to supplement and enrich the print collections of books and journals. And, just as libraries charge for making photocopies of printed pages, we now must charge for making copies of electronic materials on the laser printers connected to library machines.

When printing is free, many people print in large quantities. One estimate is that 25% of the pages printed -- perhaps as many as 1 million pages a year -- end up in the recycling bin. In addition to the waste, the prices of paper and toner increase annually. Pay-for-print will help defray costs, making it possible to use more dollars for new and lasting information resources for the MIT community.

One happy exception to pay-for-print is printing from WebBarton, MIT's online catalog. Prints from WebBarton will remain free, although you'll have to use a copy card to release your printing job. Conveniently, the copy cards that work in the pay-for-print system will be the Vendacards, the same cards used at the Libraries' photocopiers. Printing at other locations outside the Libraries will continue to be without charge.

We are sorry for any inconvenience the pay-for-print system may cause students and others of the MIT community. To assist you in printing only the essentials, the Libraries will be mounting a page of tips on how to print efficiently and a FAQs page. Instructions on printing and on re-valuing copy cards will be available at all print-release stations, vending machines, and circulation desks. And the staff of the MIT Libraries will be on hand to help with any problems that may arise as the new system goes into effect. If you have specific questions or comments, please contact Keith Glavash (kglavash@mit.edu).

Ingenuity, Luck Give 'Don't Worry' Victory

6.270, from Page 1

arena and one on the central platform. If the ball on the platform was moved, two reserve balls rolled down separately from above the arena and landed on the platform. The robots tried to move as many balls as possible to their respective sides of the arena, and at the end of one minute, the robot with more balls on its side won.

Both Don't Worry and Maximus used the same strategy, attempting to hit balls from the central platform to their side of the arena, grabbing the two balls that started on the opponent's side, and then quickly trying to pin the slower robots if they tried to venture onto their side.

Three advance to round robin

The early rounds left many teams disappointed. The Zekrit Ninja Phatapult with a unique ball-launching strategy survived for only two rounds, when its lack of speed caught up with it. However, during a break the contest organizers presented its designers with an award for ingenuity.

Similarly, crowd-pleasing robots like Murphy's Plow of Doom, which pushed balls out of the arena, and Kirpal the Autonomous Rickshaw, which placed balls inside its own construction and then lifted a gate to let them out, dropped out in the later rounds. Murphy was pinned by the eventual champion Don't Worry and in a desperate sumo match was unable to push Don't Worry back far enough. Kirpal met up with The Desi G Ride, which extended across the entire playing field, and could not push past its arms.

"We were fan favorites not due to ability but because of our originality," said Alan T. Asbeck '02, one of the creators of Murphy's Plow of Doom.

"Really the tournament came down to a lot of luck. We were really there to enjoy the class and have fun, so nothing was lost," added his teammate Matt Alaniz '01.

In the end, the final three robots were Don't Worry, Maximus, and Minimax.

Minimax was designed by two freshmen, David Signoff '04, and Steven M. Stern '04, and Andrew M. Starr '02. "We were completely shocked we came so far, even surprised we qualified," they said. "We were even more proud that we got through without one all-nighter or killing each other." They named their robot after their friend Max, who helped them get through the tournament.

Maximus was named "because we initially wanted to design a robot that was tough ... plus we wanted a name the crowd could cheer," the team said.

Don't Worry was named "because I was always worried we would never get it done," Lin said. "We always started work at 10 p.m., after Fred did his UROP work, and we felt like we had nothing at the start of the third week [due to constant strategy and design changes.] So Fred kept saying, 'don't worry, it'll work' whenever I was displeased with our progress. We also said it 50 times during the competition."

Top two teams meet four times

Scores were cleared at the beginning of the double elimination round robin. In the first of these rounds, Maximus whacked a ball from the central platform to its side as Minimax scrambled to Maximus's side. Both robots were unable to obtain any other balls, so the win went to Maximus 3-2. In the next match, with Maximus pitted against Don't Worry, the ball on the platform went to Maximus, and each robot captured the

other's two balls, but with a little luck a top ball fell onto Don't Worry's side, resulting in a tie. The next match between Don't Worry and Minimax brought the curtain down for Minimax as Don't Worry quickly pinned Minimax in the corner for its second loss.

The next two matches between Don't Worry and Maximus were replicas of their earlier one, first with Don't Worry getting the platform ball and Maximus with the lucky dropped ball, and then with roles reversed in the following round. Finally, in their fourth match, the platform ball went to Don't Worry, but the two top balls remained on the platform, giving Don't Worry a 3-2 win and the championship.

"We were very happy with how well we did," said Maximus's team. "We all wanted to have a good time and design a robot that we could be proud of. We did that."

Looking over the whole competition, the victors Lin and Lee said that "we liked the board this year since it was simple, yet had its own engineering challenges, since the ball was so big and heavy. There were a lot of issues with power and speed which were more exciting than the ability to sort blocks ... I am just glad that the audience had fun and that we gave them some good entertainment."

Contest draws varied crowd

Room 26-100 was a full house Thursday night, even requiring an overflow room for robot fans. Professor Edward J. Moriarty of the Edgerton center, who also teaches a high school robotics class, brought his two sons Tommy and Peter and their two friends Zack Nestel-Patt and Alex Van Dijk from Lexington. "I used to be in charge of the [Electrical Engineering and Computer Science] academic administration and pretty much managed [6.270]," said Professor Moriarty. Moriarty applauded the designers of the competition for excellent organization.

Moriarty said he was as always impressed with the robot design, even the placebos. The children all agreed that "The robots are cool!" with Zack favoring Wapos, Peter backing DP, and Tommy and Alex favoring The Desi G Ride.

The robotics team from Luden Middle School was there for the first half of the tournament. After the first round of the evening, team leader Richard Fisher introduced his robot and team, who were state champions of the middle school level this year. "We were going to show you our programs, but after we learned about your tournament, we knew we had to try," said Fisher.

The modified state champion pushed two platform balls to its side to defeat the three-legged placebo robot 4-2, bringing the crowd to its feet. The team said they one day hope to return and compete in 6.270 for real when their time comes.

Members of a team from Microsoft, composed of Michael C. Koss '83, Yabing Chu, and Fei Chua, were also there as onlookers, and they too provided entertainment during another break. They debuted their own robot, which they had created over three weeks. "We too put in a lot of time ... and when we thought that we were 90 percent done we were only about 25 percent done," Koss told the crowd.

Their robot was unable to fetch any balls during its match, and they were later used as a placebo in a round against Minimax. In that round, Microsoft's robot went for the platform and proceeded to flip over, allowing for an easy win for Minimax. "Looks like control-alt-delete to me!" said Soraya M. Scroggins '04.

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BOB SUMNER—THE TECH
Riad Wahby '02 (right) helps Anna Folinsky '02 (left) try the water pipe he entered in the MIT Hemp Coalition's IAP competition, *For Tobacco Use Only: Topics In Advanced Water Filtration*. This entry, entitled "Genghis Bong," was created by Wahby and Amanda Griffith '04 and won first place in the aesthetic category at the judging session last Thursday.

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- Winning proposals from last year**
- An exploration of glassblowing
 - Investigation of Mars' climate through studies of the Arctic
 - Design and construction of an aqua-kinetic sculpture
 - A project fusing classical and techno music

Proposals of no more than ten pages in length (plus an abstract) and at least one recommendation should be submitted to the UROP office, 7-104, by March 30, 2001.

Questions?
Send email to urop@mit.edu.

Deadline
March 30, 2001



TECHNOLOGY UNPLUGGED!!
New Deadline: February 10, 2001!



The Council on Educational Technology (CET), in conjunction with the Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP), is accepting proposals from students for Educational Innovation at MIT.

There is still time to submit a proposal! This is an exciting opportunity to develop new ways to enhance already existing information technology, or to cultivate your own innovative ideas for an experimental system or service that could eventually become part of MIT's education and computing infrastructure. **MAKE YOUR LEADERSHIP VISION A REALITY!**

The scale of these projects is in the neighborhood of two years and tens of thousands of dollars, per proposal. Please follow the URL below for more details about the scope of the program.

<http://web.mit.edu/ed-proposals>

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Concert Planned for Day of Ring Cruise

Concert, from Page 1

[large event fund's] goal is to have a lot of things going on on-campus."

Benedict has offered \$10,000 to be used for the concert. \$5,000 is a direct grant while another \$5,000 will be repaid with profits from the concert. Habitat for Humanity will receive the balance of the concert's profits, up to \$5,000.

Benedict said this arrangement was set up because "I didn't want all the profits to go to Habitat." Dalai agreed that this system would be more fair to other student groups who need the Dean's money while still allowing the concert to be funded.

Benedict said he asked Dalai about the possibility of combining the concert with Spring Weekend. That way, Benedict wouldn't have to help fund both events and any competition between the concerts would be eliminated.

Dalai said many other colleges have several large events in a term and felt that MIT could do the same successfully.

Timing of concert questioned

The idea of having two major concerts in the spring term has raised some questions about any possible competition.

"I don't think it will hurt" Spring Weekend, Benedict said. He added that the bands for the two concerts will probably appeal to different audiences and that Spring Weekend will feature other activities.

"It isn't that close to Spring Weekend," Garg said, noting that there is an eight week separation between the events.

Spring Weekend Chair Satwiksai Seshasai '01 declined to comment on the matter.

The date of the concert has also raised another concern: it is the same day as the sophomore class's Ring Cruise.

"We only found out after we reserved Rockwell," Garg said. She said they didn't want to push the date back, because it might interfere with Spring Weekend.

Dalai said he hoped the Ring Cruise would take place in the afternoon, which would allow sophomores to attend both events.

"We can't promise this will be an annual event," Garg said. If they do it again next year, she said, it would probably be moved to the fall.

The popular hip-hop band Naughty by Nature, most well-known for their hit "Down with O.P.P.," has released four albums since their formation in 1991. The group has won numerous awards, including a Grammy for Best Rap Album.

Last year, Reel Big Fish and They Might Be Giants played for Spring Weekend. The event also included the Alpha Chi Omega lip sync competition, the International Fair, the "Studio 84" dance party, and the comeback of the Johnson Games.

This decision for this year's Spring Weekend band will be made near the end of February, Seshasai said.

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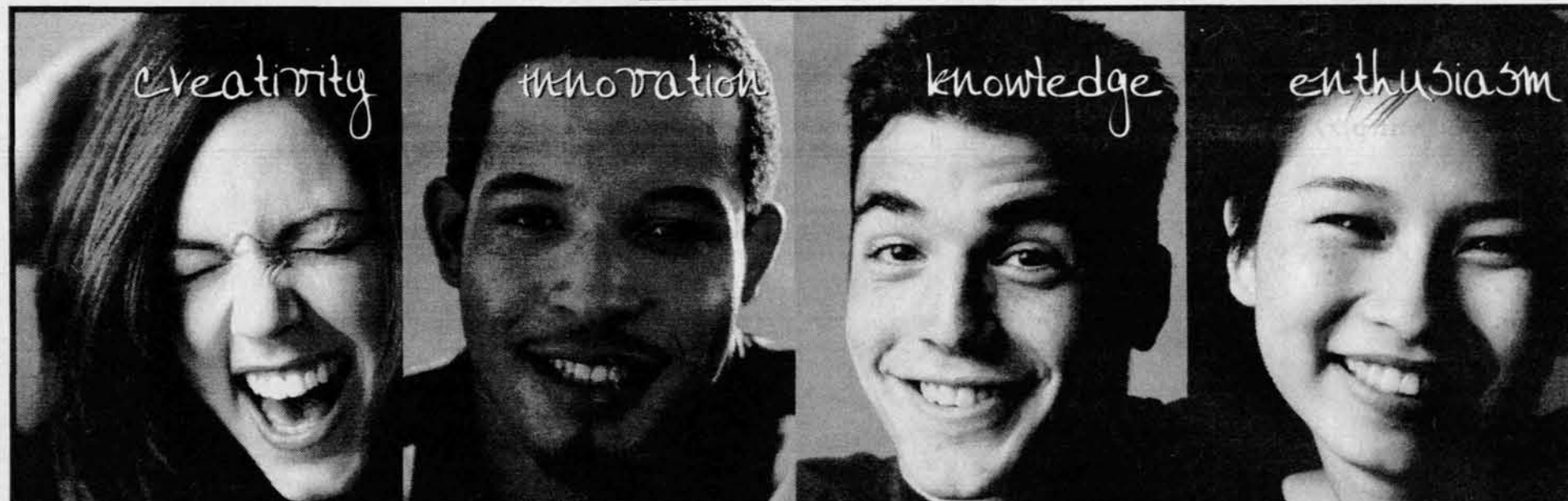
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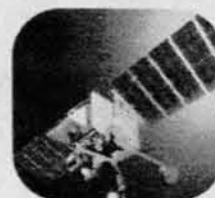
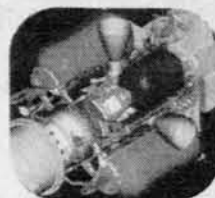
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Orientation 2001'

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*Applications for all opportunities are now available in Academic Resource Center, 7-103 and must be submitted by Thursday, March 1 @ 5:00PM. You may email Leslie Bottari, bottari@mit.edu if you have any further questions.

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Search For New Location Begins

TEAL, from Page 1

are a lot less physics graduate students than undergraduates," Shulman said.

Time pressure to find location

The Institute is facing time pressure to find a location for TEAL as fast as possible so that construction may begin and the room is ready for fall 2001, when the program is scheduled to begin. The decision has to be made by the end of this week, Shulman said.

Space Administrator John P. Dunbar of the Facilities Department and Dean of Science Robert J. Silbey, who were present at the meeting yesterday, are currently working to find a new location for the Physics Reading Room within the buildings allotted for the School of Science.

TEAL is funded by the d'Arbeloff Initiative, the MIT/Microsoft I-Campus Alliance, and the National Science Foundation, among other sources.

The purpose of the program is to more personally engage students in the process of learning introductory physics. According to the TEAL proposal, students will share laptops in groups of three, with nine students at each of about dozen round tables in one classroom. A professor will be present for instruction, as well as for guidance in performance of lab experiments.

Crossword Solution

E	B	B	G	R	A	S	P	R	E	W	A	R
S	R	O	R	U	S	E	A	E	R	A	T	E
P	A	U	L	A	N	K	A	P	A	R	T	E
			D	O	N	I	L	I	A	D	S	A
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			S	K	A	L	D	E	U	R	E	K
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M	E	R	M	A	N	U	N	B	O	D	I	E
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S	M	O	C	K	S	S	E	E	S	N	E	W

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Skiing Starts Strong In Two IAP Matches

By Timothy Garnett
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT Nordic Ski Team got its season off to a good start with strong finishes in two meets over IAP. The men snatched second place in the two meets while the women, with not enough members to participate in team events, finished with high individual places.

The first ski meet of the season was in Jackson, NH on the weekend of January 20th. The only event of the weekend was the a 9 km classic race.

The men's team placed second with Samuel T. Coradetti '02 leading the team with a sixth place finish. He was followed by Derek G. Southwell '01 in ninth place, Timothy G. Garnett '02 in 14th place, Christopher M. Testa '03 in 15th place, and Karl-Magnus W. McLetchie '02 in 18th place.

The women, while lacking enough members to field a team score, had strong individual finishes with Teresa M. Hung '02 coming in third and rookie Marissa L. Yates '03 coming in fourth.

After spending the intervening week training at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY, the team attended its second meet of

the year. The meet was held over the weekend of January 27 at the Salmon Hills Resort in New York. With three races on the schedule, this promised to be a fuller and more challenging meet than the first.

It started with the men's 15 km skating race Saturday morning. The men's team again placed second with top finishes by Testa in third place, Southwell in seventh place, Garnett in eighth place, and McLetchie in 18th place.

The women's 10km skate race immediately followed and MIT women had an excellent finish with Hung placing second and Yates placing fourth.

Later in the day, .6 km skating sprint races were held for both men and women. The MIT men finished strong with Southwell taking first place in a race decided by less than a second and Testa taking fourth. The women also did well with Hung taking second and Yates taking sixth.

Sunday morning saw the final event of the meet, a 7.5 km classic race for both men and women. The men once again placed second with Testa placing fourth, Coradetti placing seventh, Garnett placing ninth, Southwell placing 11th and McLetchie placing 18th. On the women's side Hung placed second and Yates came in a strong third.

Gordon Falls to Engineers

Story, from Page 28

ing Big Dig traffic and Coast Guard Basketball on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Always a tough opponent at home, Coast Guard came out strong looking for their first conference win and an upset.

The game was fast-paced and as it wore on, the Coast Guard Cadets tired from MIT's relentless push up and down the court.

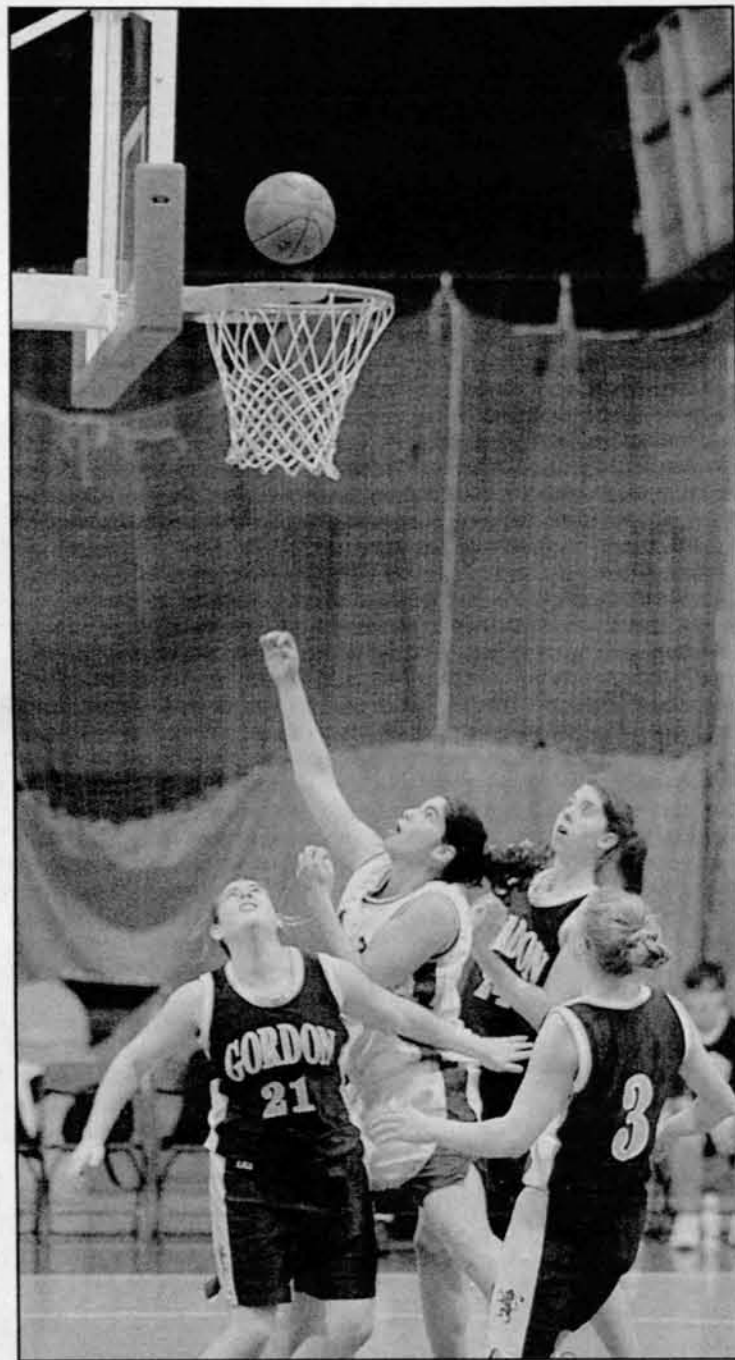
Though the Cadets were undoubtedly fit, MIT boasts its own armed weapon in Russell and for forty minutes of play (the whole game), she never tired of leading the charge to pick apart Coast Guard's defense, nor shutting down their offense. Russell connected on various occasions with Estrada (17 points) and Coast Guard could not stop Estrada despite their hard efforts.

Frosh duo Hidalgo and Zacks were next in scoring with 15 and 10 points respectively. Zacks was a rebounding terror with 14 boards, including eight off the offensive glass.

Daugherty and Dwan C. Riddick '03 stepped up defensively to limit Coast Guard's talented offensive threat, Tessa Mueller.

Coast Guard attempted a final surge by fouling the Engineers in hopes of a late comeback, but the strategy proved fruitless as MIT hit their free throws and the game pulled more out of reach for the home squad.

The final horn sounded and MIT prevailed 67-49 in a game that, though MIT always led, was closer than the score may indicate.



KAILAS NARENDRA

Rayna Zacks '04 and Gordon College defenders watch as Zacks's shot drops in during last Thursday's game. The Engineers defeated the Scots 62-42.



AARON D. MIHALIK — THE TECH

Daniel M. Goodman '01 presses a Springfield College player during the men's basketball game on Saturday. MIT lost to Springfield 68-48.



SISIR BOTTA

Craig C. Heffernan '01 puts up a shot through a Babson College defender. Heffernan lead the Engineers with 22 points as MIT beat Babson last Tuesday, 60-48.

Men's Basketball		Tuesday, January 30	
Babson at MIT		1	2 Total
Babson	31	17	48
MIT	26	34	60
AB FG	3 PT	FT	
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Babson	10-24	3-11	17-22
Shooting	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Babson	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Rebounding	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Babson	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22

Men's Basketball		Saturday, February 3	
Springfield at MIT		1	2 Total
Springfield	34	34	68
MIT	22	26	48
AB FG	3 PT	FT	
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Springfield	10-24	3-11	17-22
Shooting	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Springfield	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Rebounding	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Springfield	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22

Women's Basketball		Tuesday, January 30	
MIT at Coast Guard		1	2 Total
MIT	30	37	67
Coast Guard	25	24	49
AB FG	3 PT	FT	
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Coast Guard	10-24	3-11	17-22
Shooting	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Coast Guard	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Rebounding	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Coast Guard	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22

Women's Basketball		Saturday, January 27	
Gordon at MIT		1	2 Total
Gordon	16	26	42
MIT	33	29	62
AB FG	3 PT	FT	
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Gordon	10-24	3-11	17-22
Shooting	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Gordon	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Rebounding	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Gordon	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22

Women's Basketball		Saturday, February 3	
Springfield at MIT		1	2 Total
Springfield	28	40	68
MIT	23	42	65
AB FG	3 PT	FT	
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Springfield	10-24	3-11	17-22
Shooting	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Springfield	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Rebounding	AB FG	3 PT	FT
MIT	10-24	3-11	17-22
Springfield	10-24	3-11	17-22
3 PT FG	10-24	3-11	17-22
FT	10-24	3-11	17-22

SPORTS

Women Overpower Springfield

Basketball Holds on to Defeat Conference Leaders at 75-68

By Melissa Hart
TEAM COACH

The women's basketball team went up against the number one ranked Springfield Pride in an exciting battle Saturday and came away with a 75-68 win. Although MIT led throughout the game, the Pride kept the game close and the packed Rockwell Cage crowd on their toes. With the win, MIT became the top team in the New England Men's and Women's Conference (NEWMAC).

The teams remained close in the first half. The Engineers' lead fell anywhere between five and twelve points throughout. MIT led 33-28 at the half.

The Pride came out fired up and physical in the second half and closed the lead to three right away. MIT built the lead back up time and time again to see Springfield chip back away at it and close it to five before the cycle would repeat.

MIT remained composed and weathered a scoring drought (and some questionable referee judgments) with solid defense and pure hustle to keep a high scoring Springfield squad from taking advantage.

Facing a 10-point deficit late in the game, Springfield was forced to intentionally foul MIT, and the offi-

cials were finally forced to send a number of MIT players to the free-throw line.

The team, which has been working diligently to improve its free-throw shooting, was ready for the moment. "Go ahead, foul us" was the attitude as player after player sank her foul shots, which proved the most crucial part of the game as Springfield sank bomb after three point bomb in those waning moments (four out of six threes in the last two minutes).

MIT held on to the lead thanks to 85 percent accuracy from the line. Four MIT starters were in double figures as Cristina Estrada '01 led MIT with 21 points, five rebounds and four blocks, Rayna B. Zacks '04 had 12 points, grabbed 11 rebounds, and dished out five assists, and Megan C. Daugherty '03 and Crystal A. Russell '03 added 14 points each.

Prior to their loss, Springfield stood alone on top of the NEWMAC, but MIT's win puts the Engineers on top of the conference at 5-1. Springfield is the only other team to have only one loss, but because it is to MIT, they drop to second.

MIT will play three more conference games over the next two weeks to defend their first place spot and the opportunity to host the

Conference Championship (first place hosts).

MIT stands at 16-5 overall and will next face conference opponent WPI on Saturday in Rockwell at 2:00 p.m.

Gordon faces unfriendly defense

Women's basketball did away with a solid Gordon College basketball team on Thursday night by a score of 62-42. Led by outstanding defense from captain Ebony Smith '01, MIT's high pressure defense came up with 20 team steals and decided the game early.

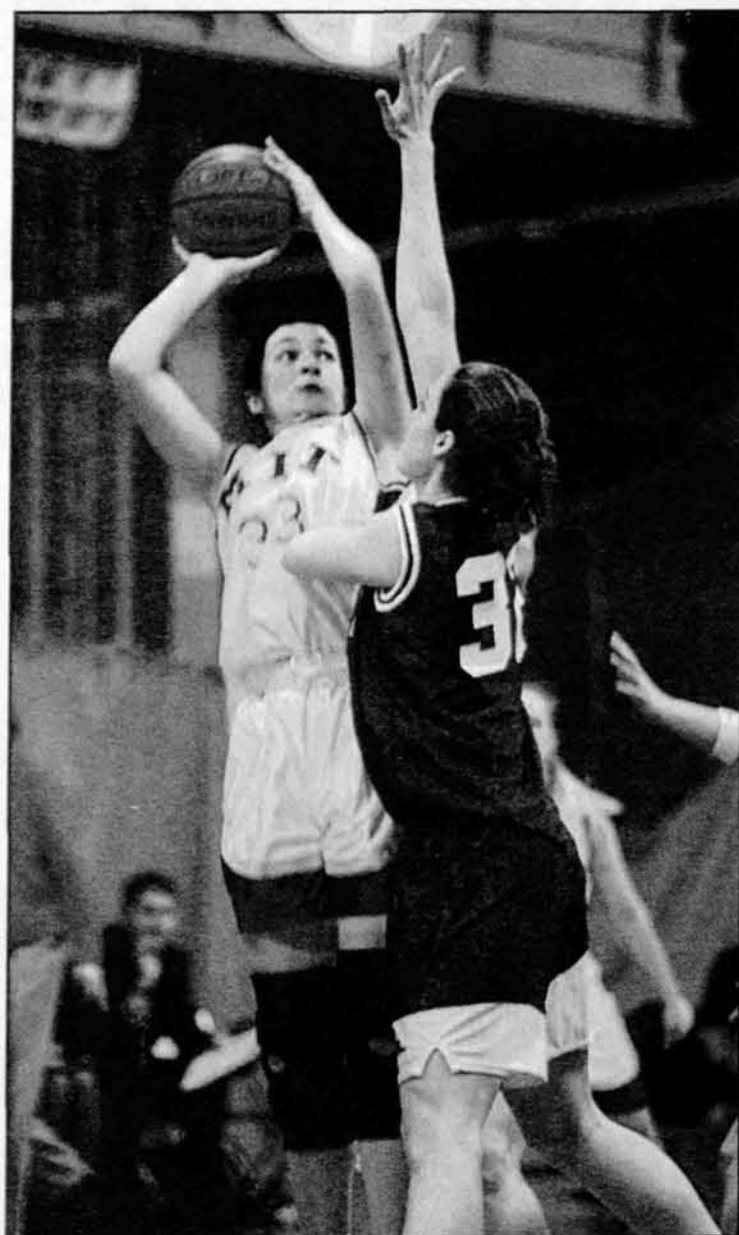
Rookies Zacks and Maria E. Hidalgo '04 teamed up for a scorching 57 percent from the floor, tallying 27 points (17 and 10 respectively) between them.

The biggest difference in the Engineers' last non-conference match-up of the season came in those intangibles that cannot be shown on the statistic sheet: desire, hunger, and hustle. Zacks passed the MIT freshmen rebounding record—no great surprise as she has been ranked nationally all season for her work on the boards.

MIT defeats Coast Guard

The Engineers had to travel to New London, Conn. to face frustrat-

Story, Page 27



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH
Cristina Estrada '01 takes a jump shot through the tight Springfield defense on Saturday. Estrada led the Engineers with 21 points in a 75-68 upset over Springfield. The win over Springfield puts the Engineers in first place in the NEWMAC.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, February 6

Men's Volleyball vs. Roger Williams University, 7:00 p.m.
Squash vs. Connecticut College (at Harvard), 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 8

Men's Hockey vs. College of the Holy Cross, 7:00 p.m.
Squash vs. Tufts University (at Harvard), 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 10

Men's & Women's Indoor Track & Field, Quad Cup Invitational, 2:00 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. WPI, 2:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Sacred Heart University, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 11

Women's Ice Hockey vs. Manhattanville College, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13

Women's Basketball vs. Wheaton College, 7:00 p.m.

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Fencing Picks up Wins at Home

Invitational Results Are Mixed: Men End at 2-2, Women at 3-1

By Perry Hooker
TEAM MEMBER

The men's and women's fencing teams faced a host of strong opponents this Sunday at MIT's annual invitational meet. Coming off strong performances last weekend at Boston College, both teams began the day well rested and with high expectations. Unfortunately, the Engineers ended the day with mixed results. The men finished off the four-match day at 2-2 and the women at 3-1.

Eleven schools made the trip to Cambridge to compete; UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, Cornell, NYU, and Yeshiva University all faced MIT.

The first team the Engineers faced was longtime rival UNC. Though both the men's and women's teams began slowly, each entered the final round of bouts within striking distance of their opponents. A late rally by the epeeists gave the men's team hope, but it was not to be and the men lost 14-13.

The women fared better, as clutch wins in the final round by Clarissa Y. Smith '04, Dianne K. Allen '01, and Susan A. Juan '02 gave the women the victory by a score of 14-13.

With scant time to recover after a difficult first round, the Engineers immediately faced their second opponent, Duke University. An impressive six wins by the men's epee squad gave the men the early advantage, but Duke was able to battle back and again force the match to the final round of fencing.

This time, Oliver J. Chadwick '02 and Brian T. Rosenfeld '04 took key wins to give the men the victory, 14-13. Chadwick, Paul J. Thordarson '01, and Neal K. Devaraj '02 all went undefeated against Duke.

Similarly, Jennifer A. Lue '03 and Jennifer A. McKeehan '01 led the women's team to victory by maintaining a perfect record. The women's team won 15-12.

Strengthened by their victories, the Engineers moved on to challenge fencing powerhouse New York University. The women's team performed brilliantly, and claimed a remarkable 20-7 victory. Not a sin-

gle member of the women's team lost more than two bouts to NYU, and Smith, Allen, and Joan Hon '01 all went undefeated.

On the men's side, the foil squad of Chadwick, Rosenfeld, and Andre D. Van Horne '01 turned in an extraordinary five victories versus a top-notch NYU team. Their performance was not enough, however, and the men lost 17-10.

In the final round of competition, the MIT men faced Yeshiva

University and the women battled Cornell. Incredibly, the women's sabre squad, despite the absence of their captain and leading fencer, didn't lose a single bout to Cornell. However, the Cornell ladies were able to weather the storm, and the MIT women suffered a disappointing 14-13 loss.

The men faced little difficulty, on the other hand, and dispatched Yeshiva 20-7.



PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH
Neal K. Devaraj '02 advances against an opponent from the University of North Carolina. The men lost to UNC and finished the day at 2-2.